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1 BRISTOL BAY ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 VOLUME II

5
6 Dillingham, Alaska
7 March 1, 2002
8 8:00 o'clock a.m.

9
10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

11
12 Dan O'Hara, Chairman
13 Robyn Samuelson, Vice Chair
14 Andrew Balluta
15 Robert Heyano
16 Shirley Kelley
17
18 Regional Coordinator, Cliff Edenshaw

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3 (On record - 8:05 a.m.)

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Call the meeting to
6 order. It's about five after 8:00 this morning. Let the
7 minutes reflect that Robyn Samuelsen had to be excused
8 today. He has a teleconference that he needs to attend
9 to and there's about \$10 million out there for research
10 and he's going to try to get some of that. Of course,
11 the inshore fisheries of Alaska, most of it wants to go
12 offshore, so we wish him the best on that. Glad he could
13 make it. As long as we still have a quorum.

14

15 We're down to reports. Deb Liggett, the
16 superintendent of the Lake Clark Park Preserve and Katmai
17 National Park Reserve and Aniakchak, I believe, has to be
18 on a flight at 9:00 this morning. So, Council members,
19 if we could go over to the report on the parks, we can go
20 ahead and give her an opportunity if that's okay with the
21 Council members. Deb.

22

23 MS. LIGGETT: Thank you. Good morning,
24 Mr. Chair and members of the Council. What I'd like to
25 do this morning is have Mary McBurney, the subsistence
26 resource manager for these four national park areas, to
27 give her standard report on the park areas and then I
28 would like to try to cover the issues that I think came
29 before the Council yesterday that you specifically asked
30 about that include the Lake Clark subsistence fisheries,
31 the Alagnak water resource management planning effort,
32 ATV's, the Newhalen tower, drop-off hunters, belugas,
33 dollars beyond park boundaries and the tracking of the
34 barter issue. At that point, I'll ask Dave Nelson to
35 come forward. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Mary.

38

39 MS. MCBURNEY: Good morning. For the
40 record, my name is Mary McBurney. I'm the subsistence
41 program manager for Lake Clark, Katmai, Aniakchak and the
42 Alagnak Wild River. I'll be as brief as possible this
43 morning and just fill you in on a few items of note from
44 the SRC meetings that took place last week. You do have
45 a report in your packets and I'll just leave it to you to
46 take a look at those.

47

48 Most notable from the report in your
49 packet, I would just like to bring your attention to the
50 fact that Andrew Balluta received a very prestigious

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1 award recently and this is something that we're very,
2 very proud of and I wanted to be sure that we mentioned
3 it today. Andrew was awarded the Alaska Regional
4 Resources Stewardship Award at a regional conference that
5 took place back in December. This was awarded to Andrew
6 by the regional director for the National Park Service,
7 Alaska Region, and was in recognition of Andrew's many
8 years of hard work on behalf of the people of Nondalton
9 and the Lake Clark region and his work with the federal
10 government through the National Park Service and through
11 the Federal Subsistence Management Program to preserve
12 his Dena'ina culture and also the resources around the
13 Lake Clark region.

14

15 I attached a copy of the nomination form
16 that was prepared and submitted by Superintendent
17 Liggett. Just take a look at that and I'm sure that
18 you'll agree that Andrew is somebody that we can
19 definitely be very, very proud of. Thank you, Andrew.
20 (Clapping) He's a very good role model to all of us.

21

22 The Lake Clark SRC met last week. In
23 fact, let me just mention we did something a little bit
24 differently regarding scheduling of our SRC meetings.
25 Tom and I scheduled the SRC meetings for Aniakchak and
26 for Lake Clark so that they were during the same week and
27 we were able to do them back to back. We found that that
28 scheduling is really very efficient and we really got a
29 lot done, but the one thing that was really helpful was
30 that it was the week before this meeting. We had the
31 benefit of the information that was in the Council
32 packets, which is something that generally we don't have
33 available for the SRC's when we schedule the meetings
34 maybe a couple, three weeks prior to the Bristol Bay RAC
35 meeting.

36

37 So one of the things that we did discuss
38 in both the SRC's was the scheduling of the next meetings
39 and what we would request from the RAC is if you would
40 consider scheduling the RAC meeting in the fall during
41 the latter part of the meeting window. Both the SRC's
42 have looked at the first week in October as being the
43 best for getting their groups together. If at all
44 possible, we would appreciate and they would appreciate
45 having your meeting perhaps during the last couple of
46 weeks of that meeting window period.

47

48 Regarding actions that were taken by the
49 SRC's, I'll just cover Lake Clark first. One of the
50 items that came before the SRC was draft language that

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1 was prepared by National Park Service staff to establish
2 eligibility requirements for subsistence on Alaska park
3 lands. This has been an issue that many SRC's in the
4 state have been discussing over the years. As a result
5 of the Chair's Meetings over the past couple of years,
6 this has been really brought to the forefront of issues.

7

8

9

10 The draft language was reviewed by the
11 SRC's during this last SRC cycle and each park had the
12 option of establishing or recommending establishing an
13 eligibility period or residency requirement for
14 subsisting in their area. The draft language reads as
15 follows: A person living within the park resident zone
16 who would not otherwise qualify for a subsistence permit
17 shall not be considered a local rural resident until
18 having maintained their primary permanent residence
19 within the residence zone for a continuous period of
20 blank years.

20

21

22 The range of residency that had been
23 considered by various SRC's ranged from one year, which
24 is what was initially requested by the Aniakchak and the
25 Lake Clark SRC's, to three years, which had been
26 requested by the Denali SRC. After a great deal of
27 consideration and discussion, the Lake Clark SRC
28 recommended that they would like to have a three-year
29 residency requirement implemented for Lake Clark, so that
30 recommendation is going forward to the National Park
31 Service for their consideration.

31

32

33 The SRC also recommended to amend
34 Proposal 27, which you considered yesterday, which was
35 the hunting beaver or trapping beaver with a firearm.
36 While they recommended making an amendment to that
37 particular proposal to create a hunting season for Unit
38 17, they are going to be preparing a proposal for the
39 next wildlife cycle that will establish a beaver hunting
40 season for Unit 9(B) and this is an issue that the SRC's
41 throughout the state have been bringing to the Park
42 Service. We have decided that we can work with the local
43 groups and local residents and by creating a beaver
44 hunting season we can allow subsistence users to use a
45 firearm to take beaver. It would be under a hunting
46 license rather than a trapping license, but it does
47 enable people to continue this customary and traditional
48 activity.

48

49

50 Now, for the Aniakchak SRC, again, going
back to the residency requirement, they also, after a

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1 fair amount of discussion, decided that they are going to
2 also recommend a three-year residency requirement. Most
3 notably, at least from the subsistence coordinator's
4 perspective, we also made a big milestone step in having
5 the Aniakchak subsistence hunting plan finalized, so we
6 now have a subsistence hunting plan in place for
7 Aniakchak. We have copies available to folks that wish
8 to request one and we're very proud of the fact that
9 finally that is in place. It is a living document that
10 will be amended as situations change and as requests from
11 the SRC come forward for amendments to that plan.

12

13 Finally, regarding Katmai and the
14 Alagnak, Janis Meldrum had requested that I just bring to
15 your attention very briefly the planning process that is
16 taking place with regard to aquatic resources in Alagnak
17 and Katmai. That was handed out yesterday -- in fact, I
18 see one right in front of Peter there -- a newsletter
19 that has been put out to briefly explain what the water
20 resources planning process is all about. This is a
21 planning process that is intended to provide a
22 coordinated framework for monitoring management and
23 research of aquatic resources in both Katmai National
24 Park and the Alagnak Wild River.

25

26 Janis wanted you to know that this is
27 something that is a very open, public process and she
28 would very much welcome any participation from RAC
29 members and she has held some scoping meetings so far and
30 I just thought that I would mention that there has been
31 quite a bit of response from a variety of different
32 groups from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the
33 Alaska Department of Natural Resources to the King Salmon
34 Village Council, the Iguigig Village Council, Kakhonak,
35 Naknek Village Councils, the descendants of Katmai, the
36 Lake Iliamna Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

37

38 There's been very broad participation so
39 far and Janis would encourage people that are interested
40 in adding their knowledge to this and their feedback that
41 they do so. If you would like to contact Janis, her
42 telephone number is in the newsletter and if you have any
43 questions, she encourages you to please feel free to give
44 her a call. That concludes my portion of the report.

45

46 MS. LIGGETT: Thank you, Mary. You took
47 a couple things off my list. I wanted to start by
48 thanking the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council for
49 your support on the issue the National Park Service faced
50 last summer at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in

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1 regards to our implementing the National Park Service
2 fishing regulations. Those regulations permit fishing by
3 hook and line except by local rural residents engaged in
4 subsistence fishing. To our knowledge, last year no one
5 fished in Lake Clark under a state subsistence permit
6 with a net. To the best of our knowledge, at least the
7 numbers reported to me by the state, that action impacted
8 approximately 16 families.

9
10 With Mary's work and Lee Fink's work in
11 informing potential people who would be potentially
12 impacted ahead of time with a brochure that was passed
13 out. We had, I think, as Mary reported to you in
14 October, a very successful season and we will continue to
15 implement those regs at Lake Clark. Then, of course, as
16 you know, under the state system, the state has taken
17 some significant and dramatic action for this upcoming
18 season on the Kvichak, reducing the sportfish take from
19 five to two and closing fishing completely at the mouths
20 of five rivers, I believe, on the Kvichak to avoid
21 conflicts with subsistence users.

22
23 I tell you all this in part as a pitch
24 for when you are reviewing the FY 2003 proposal for
25 submissions. I would commend to your consideration
26 Project 03-042, which is escapement estimates and
27 population monitorings of the Newhalen River/Lake Clark
28 sockeye salmon. That's the Newhalen tower. It was in
29 operation for the first time last summer. It will
30 operate this summer. This proposal is for, I believe, an
31 additional three years of operation for that tower.

32
33 In order for the National Park Service to
34 meet the primary purpose as defined by ANILCA, which is
35 to protect the red salmon fishery of Bristol Bay at Lake
36 Clark, I have to figure out how many fish I need in Lake
37 Clark to the terminal fishery, so the Newhalen tower is
38 critical. I am also trying to take the longer term view
39 and figure out how the National Park Service might be
40 able to fund this tower external to our boundaries in
41 perpetuity because we think that that's critical
42 information for us to have.

43
44 We slowed down on our Alagnak River
45 planning with the loss of Jane Bekari (ph), who was our
46 planner, so we've been at rest this winter and we may
47 have been remiss by not keeping Levelock and Iguigig
48 informed of that. We will start up again this spring
49 with a sociological study being done on the river. As
50 soon as I have draft questions for that, I will be

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1 sharing those with various interested parties. Some of
2 the questions in that questionnaire though will
3 specifically target conflicts between user groups. We
4 continue to have a successful partnership with the
5 village of Levelock in terms of joint patrols on the
6 river and I believe that Tom and others were able to
7 spend more time this past summer on the Alagnak.

8

9 The issue of ATV's within the Alaska
10 Region has caught the eye and interest of our new
11 regional director, Rob Arnberger. I think you're aware,
12 Mr. Chair, that this summer I specifically spent a day
13 with Mr. Arnberger and flew him up to Katmai National
14 Preserve and discussed the issue.

15

16 A Kakhonak/Iguigig issue is in the mix as
17 the regional director considers options across the region
18 and there is a working group in place and there is a
19 meeting scheduled with the regional director sometime in
20 the next two weeks. Iguigig and Kakhonak and an agency
21 decision on that situation would probably be one of the
22 first decisions out of the box because we've already done
23 our homework there in terms of oral interviews and
24 documentation in the community. Mary has a funding
25 proposal in to do the same process at Aniakchak where we
26 do see increased recreational use.

27

28 As I understand the law and our regs,
29 nowhere is recreational use permitted. Use for
30 subsistence use may be permitted if traditionally
31 employed based upon a decision by the superintendent.
32 So, that issue has not gone away. It may seem like it
33 from this group's perspective because we seem to move
34 forward in increments and hold still for a minute, but I
35 expect some forward movement on that issue in the next
36 six months.

37

38 The issue of drop-off hunters. This is
39 not the only group that is talking about that issue. In
40 the National Park areas that we manage, that's a
41 significant issue, both at Lake Clark National Preserve
42 and at Katmai National Preserve. It is not as significant
43 an issue in Aniakchak National Preserve just because
44 access is so difficult there. But not only are the
45 Subsistence Resource Councils and the Regional Advisory
46 Councils talking about this issue, so is the Alaska
47 Sporthunters Association. Many of those guides compete
48 for contracts with the National Park Service or the Fish
49 & Wildlife Service to operate on those lands. In theory,
50 those contracts are exclusive, but then everybody and

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1 their brother can fly in and drop off hunters.

2

3 From an enforcement perspective, it is
4 not our licensed contracted hunting guides that are a
5 problem. Tom will tell you that it is the drop-off
6 hunters that are unguided that have poor camping methods
7 that have waste of meat, have bad behaviors in bear
8 country, that are our enforcement problem.

9

10 I spoke last March about this time. I
11 was before the Board of Game on another issue and I spoke
12 with them in terms of the National Park Service support
13 for guided moose hunting. My understanding is that the
14 Alaska State Legislature doesn't want to go there, but
15 the National Park Service is interested in that for a
16 variety of reasons. With that said, there may be other
17 tools by which a National Park Service manager could
18 manage that issue.

19

20 A law passed in 1998 allowed park
21 managers for the first time to limit the number of
22 commercial operators if there were resource concerns.
23 The problem is, and I've been telling our commercial
24 operators for some time that, you know, we were expecting
25 the regulations to implement that law at any time and
26 that has not been forthcoming. I have petitioned my
27 regional director to take the step of implementing the
28 law by policy while we wait for the regulations and Mr.
29 Arnberger may take that step. If he does, that is one of
30 the places that I might look to manage commercial
31 operators based on what I perceive as an enforcement and
32 user conflict problem.

33

34 I think we all should be thinking in the
35 long run that this is a place where perhaps a sometimes
36 unlikely coalition might come together with some
37 agreement on this issue. The drop-off air taxis would
38 probably not be part of that coalition. They would have
39 concerns, but there might be a way to meet some of their
40 concerns also.

41

42 The issue of dollars beyond the
43 boundaries of conservation system units, which is one of
44 the issues that has me concerned, Mr. Chair, on your
45 concern about research on belugas. I will query my
46 solicitor on that. I may not query for a written
47 opinion. I may query more, you know, what if. I think
48 if this Council has the commitment from Steve Klein and
49 the folks that are managing the federal subsistence
50 money, if that group believes that they can spend that

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1 money outside conservation system units, I would
2 certainly encourage that and that we, by policy,
3 essentially extend the places that we might use that
4 money, as long as there's a real link to a park resource.

5

6 I went to the Lake and Pen Borough
7 meeting last week where I heard the mayor of the borough,
8 Mr. Alsworth, say that he would much rather give them a
9 resolution than give them money. I told Glen that I was
10 going to write that down and use that against him, so
11 that could potentially be my response to this group. But
12 I think, Mr. Chair, that I've come up with a solution for
13 your funding problem on the belugas. Ralph Anderson
14 helped me with this, but I've made a little poster that
15 says: Save the Kvichak Belugas, please send donations to
16 Dan O'Hara.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. You put that in
19 the minutes, huh?

20

21 MS. LIGGETT: With that said, Dan, I have
22 a copy of the study plan from Bristol Bay Native
23 Association and we're taking a look at it to see if we,
24 in fact -- and I've asked Joe Miller here to attend that
25 meeting so that we can be involved in that study plan.
26 We think any information that would shed light on what's
27 happening in the Kvichak fishery is to the benefit of the
28 National Park Service.

29

30 I have one small issue. The National
31 Park Service is being able to re-tool slightly -- Joe
32 Miller introduced himself to you yesterday. He is our
33 new fish biologist at Katmai National Park. He has
34 extensive experience in the Bristol Bay Region. We've
35 also, at Lake Clark National Park Preserve, received some
36 natural resource initiative money to hire a fish
37 biologist there. We think that those positions are
38 critical to our success in managing these resources.

39

40 Then, finally, I would like to bring up
41 and introduce to you Dave Nelson of the National Park
42 Service staff. Dave is one of those guys with the
43 federal assumption of subsistence fisheries that we
44 successfully head-hunted from the state. Dave has
45 something like 30 years of experience with the State of
46 Alaska on fish and he may have -- he sat and listened to
47 the conversation yesterday on tracking of barter and he's
48 here to make the superintendent look better than she did
49 yesterday.

50

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1 MR. NELSON: Thank you, Deb. Good
2 morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council. I will
3 be very brief. This is very extemporaneous. You had
4 extensive discussion yesterday regarding the
5 accountability of fish that may be sold because of the
6 definition of trade. Accountability, of course, is an
7 issue to us all as a biologist. Accountability is very
8 important because in order to manage these runs
9 successfully and as we move on and improve management
10 techniques, it's necessary to reconstruct the run. In
11 other words, how many fish returned, how many fish
12 spawned. In order to reconstruct the run, you obviously
13 need the spawning escapement, which we get through
14 towers, weirs, aerial surveys, et cetera, and you
15 certainly need the harvest. That harvest would include,
16 of course, the subsistence harvest, the sport harvest and
17 commercial harvest.

18
19 The issue that was discussed, of course,
20 was the accountability of the subsistence users. Mr.
21 Samuelsen and myself had a sidebar conversation last
22 night and perhaps we have a suggestion which the Council
23 might consider. Here in Bristol Bay a subsistence
24 fisherman is required to have a state permit and that
25 permit is to be filled out, I believe, on a daily basis
26 and is required to be returned at the end of the season.
27 I haven't seen the permit, but I'm quite sure it's a
28 fairly standard permit with, of course, the name of the
29 household. The important information would be the date
30 and the species of salmon harvested and the location.

31
32 Here comes the issue of accountability.
33 My suggestion here would be that an additional column be
34 added to the permit and that additional column would
35 require the permittee to record the number of fish or the
36 pounds of fish sold. Be that sale within the area or be
37 that sale outside the area. From a biological
38 perspective, it would reflect the numbers of fish.
39 That's what is needed.

40
41 There is no perfect system that I can
42 think of. I'm not saying that this is perfect. I don't
43 think there is one. I think all of us here in this room
44 know that anyone who wishes to circumvent a regulation
45 can probably do so with a little thought and it does not
46 matter which user group that is. So I'm not saying that
47 this is a perfect system. What I am suggesting, Mr.
48 Chair, is that the National Park Service here in Bristol
49 Bay and the other federal agencies involved could sit
50 down with Alaska Department of Fish & Game

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1 representatives, discuss this and determine if it is
2 feasible to add that additional column.

3

4 I will say this, the people, the
5 subsistence fishers here in Bristol Bay have been very
6 responsible in terms of returning these permits and
7 accounting for their fish. I just spoke with Mr.
8 Dunaway. The return rate is probably 80 percent. What
9 they do is, the permits that are not returned, the
10 Subsistence Division of the Alaska Department of Fish &
11 Game follows up with telephone surveys and in some
12 villages the compliance rate then is right at about
13 100 percent.

14

15 So, once again, Mr. Chair, that's very
16 brief. That's the suggestion that I discussed with Mr.
17 Samuelsen last night in a sidebar conversation. I don't
18 wish to speak for Mr. Samuelsen, but basically he was in
19 agreement with that as an initial approach. Thank you,
20 Mr. Chair. If there are any questions, I'll be glad to
21 answer.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, any
24 questions of Deb or Mr. Nelson? Deb, who is taking Jane
25 Bekari's place since she's left your management team?

26

27 MS. LIGGETT: The question is who is
28 taking the Alagnak River planner place. We're not
29 filling that immediately. Troy Hammond will manage that
30 sociological study and/or Joe. I'm not sure who this
31 summer. I have a job vacancy announcement on the street
32 right now for a management assistant position. That
33 person would work directly for me and one of the rocks
34 that I would put in that person's pack would be to finish
35 up the Alagnak River plan.

36

37 We've done scoping meetings. I think,
38 because of this hiatus, that we will need to get back and
39 do a couple more scoping meetings, probably again to
40 Levelock and Iguigig to kind of jump start. After we got
41 the data back from the sociological study, which would be
42 sometime next winter, I might have results by next year's
43 Council meeting at this time, we would put a draft
44 document together and put it back out on the street and
45 do a series of workshops and public meetings.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions,
48 Council members? Yes, Robert.

49

50 MR. HEYANO: Thank you. The ORB issue.

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1 The way I understand it, there's actually two parts to
2 this. One is the determination; therefore, it is not
3 customary and tradition. Then, if it is positive, then
4 the next issue is how do we deal with the impacts at ORB
5 due to the land. Right?

6

7 MS. LIGGETT: Right.

8

9 MR. HEYANO: And those are going to be
10 handled separately?

11

12 MS. LIGGETT: Yes. The first hurdle is
13 the agency determination on whether it was traditionally
14 employed. Then I would see working with the affected
15 communities to develop a management plan, which would
16 probably have to go through some kind of a compliance
17 process. And I don't know, Robert, right now whether
18 that compliance process would simply be -- I'm not sure
19 of the extent of that.

20

21 MR. HEYANO: The other issue is the
22 problems. You cited air taxis dropping off hunters. Do
23 we have documentation as to the exact numbers of problem
24 people versus the total use? What I'm getting at is, in
25 this report here, it's fairly detailed. You put down the
26 number of guided authorized hunters, the number of guided
27 hunters, the number of harvest of those people, you
28 know, by Becharof, Ugashik and Chignik Units. What would
29 be helpful for me, rather than talking in general terms,
30 is -- you know, we have air taxi moose hunters. In
31 Becharof there was 12 and Ugashik there was 20 and they
32 harvested 20 moose.

33

34 I think what would be helpful to me is if
35 we could have those totals and then some documentation on
36 what part of those people created problems. Are we
37 talking 1 percent, 20 percent, 50 percent? I'm familiar
38 with some of the discussions you've been having.
39 Obviously, the guided industry would like to see the air
40 taxis disappear completely because direct line of
41 competition. I just want to make sure that in my mind
42 that whatever restrictions we're going to be advocating
43 are for the right purposes.

44

45 MS. LIGGETT: I agree. Cliff, before
46 next Council meeting, would you forget to send Mr. Heyano
47 his book. (Laughing) Because we were commenting last
48 night that it's fairly frightening how closely you read
49 it and then read it back to us. I'm very aware that Fish
50 & Wildlife has very good numbers and, as you noted, those

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1 are for Becharof Refuge. The National Park Service this
2 year, for the first time, I think Mary reported this to
3 you in October, will require our air taxi operators to
4 provide us with similar information. It is very
5 difficult, and I probably need Dick Seller's help, to
6 tease out of those Game Management Units exactly which
7 animals are coming off preserve lands. So I, too, am
8 trying to wrestle with that before I make a premature
9 decision.

10

11 Also, I'm very sensitive to painting with
12 a too broad a brush on the air taxi operators. I will
13 visit with both my folks that manage commercial
14 operations and my field rangers. If there's only one
15 problem child or one or two, I would prefer to deal with
16 the problem children independently and not get locked
17 into some broad policy. I hope that next time around we
18 will have better information for the Council because I
19 desperately need it to make informed decisions, just as
20 you do.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, any other
23 questions?

24

25 MR. HEYANO: No question, Mr. Chairman.
26 I just have a comment.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

29

30 MR. HEYANO: I would like to thank Lake
31 Clark Park and Preserve and Deb for recognizing Andrew's
32 dedication to the Lake Clark Park and Preserve and the
33 time and effort he's put in there to preserve the history
34 of the first inhabitants. I think that's very important.
35 Not only for the people who reside outside the region who
36 come and visit the park and preserve, but also for some
37 of us who live within the area. I found the published
38 information very helpful to me to have a better
39 understanding. I just want to thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I appreciate that. Any
42 other comments or questions? Deb, did you have any more?
43 Okay. Thank you very much. We appreciate that good
44 report this morning. You'll be catching a flight a
45 little later on this morning.

46

47 MS. LIGGETT: Yeah, 10:00 o'clock flight.
48 Thank you, sir. Thank you for allowing us to intrude on
49 your agenda early.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's no problem.
2 We're glad to make the adjustment. Cliff, we've got the
3 next under Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program there,
4 2, 4 and 5 is all by Steve Klein. Come on up, Steve, and
5 handle these if you would, please.

6
7 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
8 Members of the Council. For the record, I'm Steve Klein,
9 the chief of Fisheries Information Services within the
10 Office of Subsistence Management. Normally I would have
11 Steve Fried, my biologist, and an anthropologist here to
12 do the next few briefings, but they have to be in two
13 places at the same time and that wasn't possible, so I'm
14 here to do those briefings and I'll try to do the fine
15 work of my staff justice here today.

16
17 For the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
18 Program, we had five issues. Two of them we covered
19 yesterday, so the three issues we have left are the draft
20 5-year planning document, which is the most important
21 issue. We also have the status of the 2000-2001
22 monitoring program projects, as well as regional issues
23 and information needs, which is also a planning process.

24
25 I propose that we take up Item 4 first
26 and if Mr. Chair would like to take a break after that,
27 we could come back and do the last two. The last two
28 will probably take, I would imagine, at least half an
29 hour, the 5-year plan and the issues and information
30 needs. In fact, it could take two hours if you wanted
31 to, but I've got two proposals for you on that. With the
32 Chair's permission, I would propose that we cover the
33 2000-2001 status report first.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go for it.

36
37 MR. KLEIN: Cliff, that was handed out to
38 all the board members?

39
40 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

41
42 MR. KLEIN: It's a document that says
43 status of 2000-2001 fishery resource monitoring program
44 studies. There were handouts on the table. I think most
45 people must have picked them up because I didn't see any
46 over there this morning. This handout is a summary of
47 the projects that you funded today for 2000 and 2001.

48
49 Within the Bristol Bay-Alaska
50 Peninsula/Kodiak-Aleutians area, a total of 15 studies

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1 have been funded. Bristol Bay is combined with the
2 Kodiak-Aleutians when we fund studies under the
3 monitoring program. Of the 15 studies, two have been
4 completed. One is traditional knowledge of fish in
5 Bristol Bay and a second one is angler effort index for
6 the Alagnak River. Those two have had their funding
7 completed and a final report is available on the TEK
8 project for Bristol Bay. We're getting one on the
9 Alagnak River fishing effort.

10

11 So that leaves 13 studies that are
12 ongoing. They're all listed on page one of the handout
13 and actually continues on to page two. Then about the
14 mid point of page two there is a summary of each of the
15 13 ongoing projects and I can provide a quick summary of
16 each of those projects that are ongoing. This is just a
17 brief summary that Steve Fried put together. Most of
18 these studies were funded in 2001 and at your fall
19 meetings next year we do plan to do a more detailed
20 presentation on the results of those studies, as Robyn
21 had requested yesterday, and have some of those reports
22 -- they're coming in now and we'll be giving those to
23 Cliff to get out to the Council members.

24

25 I would ask that, as I go through these
26 projects, if there's any of the investigators that you
27 would like to come to your fall Council meetings to
28 present their results, we have funding to make that
29 happen. You do have a lot of exciting studies going on
30 in your area and we'd be more than happy to bring some of
31 those investigators to your Council meeting to provide
32 like a 20-30 minute presentation on their results. If
33 you have studies you'd like to see the investigators, let
34 Cliff know and we'll try to make those arrangements for
35 the fall Council meeting.

36

37 So, for the 13 ongoing studies, I'm on
38 page two, the bottom half there, the first is the Togiak
39 River weir. That was a study begun in 2000.
40 Unfortunately, the Togiak proved impossible to put a weir
41 across because of the discharge. So what they've done --
42 this is by the Fish & Wildlife Service, King Salmon
43 Fisheries Office -- instead of trying to put up a weir
44 and having it wash out or not being able to get it fish
45 tight, they've gone to video monitoring. This past summer
46 they were using underwater and above-water cameras to try
47 to count fish and, actually, that proved pretty
48 successful and that will continue again for this coming
49 season.

50

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1 The second study is a genetic baseline
2 study on Dolly Varden. This is by the Fish & Wildlife
3 Service Genetics Lab. Actually, they've experienced some
4 delays due to some staff changes there, but now they have
5 geared up, the samples have been collected and they're
6 looking at the stock structure of Dolly Varden in the
7 Togiak River and they'll have a report out for us
8 sometime this spring. It looks at the stock structure in
9 the Togiak and then they'll also compare that to other
10 western Alaska Dolly Varden stocks.

11
12 The third study is sockeye salmon
13 escapement in the Alagnak River. This is a cooperative
14 project with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, BBNA
15 and the Park Service. It was started in 2001 and they
16 did have mixed results from the past summer and that is
17 primarily due to high water conditions and some problems
18 with the field crew. They did get some counts. They did
19 get otoliths for aging as well. Next year we look for
20 improvements and better success on that project.

21
22 The next study in your handout is from
23 the Buskin River. That's from the Kodiak area. There's
24 a summary there. I don't think that's too pertinent for
25 the group here today.

26
27 The next study is a population assessment
28 of Lake Clark sockeye by USGS and I think most of you are
29 familiar with Carol Ann Woody's work, but they're using
30 radio telemetry and to look at spawning habitats, run
31 timing and movement patterns. They're also using
32 genetics to look at stock structure of sockeye there.
33 This is definitely one of our more successful projects,
34 both in terms of getting the biological information
35 needed to manage the resources, but also capacity
36 building involving high school students in the projects
37 to increase their knowledge of fish management and
38 hopefully inspire some of them to pursue fisheries and
39 anthropology degrees there. I think Carol Ann is doing
40 an outstanding job there.

41
42 The next study is Togiak River
43 subsistence harvest monitoring. This is number six on
44 your handout. This is gathering harvest information from
45 Togiak Village. It's another cooperative project. I
46 think that's probably one of the bigger successes of the
47 monitoring program, is we're getting these cooperative
48 projects. In this case, it involves BBNA, Fish & Game,
49 Fish & Wildlife and the village of Togiak to get, in this
50 case, harvest information. We're both getting the

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1 information and forging these new partnerships with
2 state, federal and tribal governments working together.

3

4 Number seven on your handout is in the
5 Kodiak-Aleutians Region. I'll pass over that one.
6 Number eight is a TEK project in Nondalton on sockeye
7 salmon harvest patterns. They're meeting their
8 objectives and building capacity of local residents.
9 That's another cooperative venture with Nondalton, the
10 Park Service and USGS.

11

12 Number nine is another Lake Clark
13 project. This is with sockeye, USGS and this is the
14 towers that Deb had mentioned on the Newhalen and
15 Tazimina Rivers. There again, they had some problems
16 with high water, but they did get the biological
17 information. Again, they're working with the high school
18 students to hire and train them as interns and building
19 capacity.

20

21 Tenth is out in the AP/Becharof Refuge in
22 Aniakchak and it's a TEK project with Fish & Game and
23 BBNA. They're achieving their objectives and also
24 building capacity and they've completed interviews at
25 Port Heiden, Pilot Point, Ugashik and Egegik and they'll
26 be doing interviews this summer in Chignik and Chignik
27 Lagoon, Chignik Lane, Ivanoff Bay and Perryville and that
28 will complete the data collection efforts and I'll wrap
29 that project up.

30

31 Number 11 is down in Ugashik lakes,
32 looking at coho salmon escapement. This is a tower
33 project where they're counting the cohos as they return,
34 which are an important subsistence resource. In that
35 case, they hired three local residents to work during the
36 summer in accomplishing their objectives.

37

38 The last one I wanted to cover was number
39 12, harvest assessment of the recreational fishery for
40 salmon in the Alagnak and that's with Fish & Game and
41 BBNA. They're doing angler counts and interviews for
42 chinook and coho salmon and getting age information as
43 well. They're accomplishing their objectives.

44

45 The last study is down in Izembek, which
46 is outside of your region, so that's kind of a quick
47 overview of the 13 ongoing projects in the Bristol Bay
48 region. We're starting to get reports in on those
49 projects and, at the fall Council meeting, hope to
50 present more detailed results on those studies. Again,

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1 if you have investigators you'd like to see come, I think
2 we've got some of the best researchers in the area
3 working and we'd make them available for you for
4 presentations. That concludes my summary of the 2000-
5 2001 status report.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We will work with you
8 and Cliff on what we might want in the fall meeting.
9 This is a pretty impressive list of research and ongoing
10 programs. Council members, do you have any questions of
11 Steve Klein on any of these projects? A pretty big
12 undertaking and we appreciate the good report on that.
13 What is your next report?

14

15 MR. KLEIN: The next report -- actually,
16 the next two go together. One is the five-year plan,
17 which is in your books, and then, secondly, is kind of a
18 long-term planning document that looks at information
19 needs for the Bristol Bay region.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Under what tab is the
22 five-year plan?

23

24 MR. KLEIN: Pardon me? The five-year
25 plan is under Tab F, page 27. You should all pat
26 yourselves on the back because the projects I just
27 summarized you all have been a big part in choosing what
28 projects we do fund. To make sure that we're funding the
29 highest priorities, we should do some planning and this
30 council has taken more initiative than any other council,
31 that realized that, hey, we should have, in your case, a
32 five-year plan in place to kind of guide what projects we
33 are funding out there. What you have on page 27 is a
34 multi-page document drafted by Steve with input from this
35 council. Actually, there was a meeting scheduled a
36 couple weeks ago, but weather precluded folks from
37 getting to that meeting. We were going to fine-tune this
38 a little bit.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're thinking about
41 again trying to reschedule that if that's possible or can
42 we get it all done here today?

43

44 MR. KLEIN: Well, I think we have two
45 approaches we could take. One, I could cover this and
46 just give you an overview, a briefing in 15 minutes or we
47 could spend 45 minutes to an hour going through it in
48 detail. Whatever the wishes of the Council. We could
49 either have a briefing and revisit it later or spend up
50 to an hour on it and come up with some direction on it

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1 today.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think this is
4 important enough where I think that we're going to want
5 to come back and take as long as it's going to take to do
6 it. If we have to come back, Cliff, to the fall meeting
7 and go on with it, I think that's what we'd like to do.
8 I think this is one of the most critical things we're
9 going to do as a council right here.

10

11 MR. KLEIN: Yes, it is.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean we're not
14 necessarily in such a hurry today to get out of here.
15 We've got until evening time if we have to, but I think
16 the important issue is that this group sit down with you
17 or whoever the coordinator is going to be and go through
18 this pretty thoroughly.

19

20 MR. KLEIN: All right. Then what I'll do
21 is just provide kind of an overview of what we have here.
22 I guess after your last Council meeting some of this was
23 gone over. There's six different sections in this
24 planning document.

25

26 The first covers the Federal Conservation
27 Units within Bristol Bay and the Alaska Peninsula Region.
28 Actually, there's some edits we will be making. We will
29 be deleting number seven, Katmai National Park.
30 Evidently that is not a subsistence area within ANILCA,
31 although I guess Senator Stevens has done some
32 legislation, but we will be scratching Katmai National
33 Park as a Federal Conservation Unit. That lists the 10
34 remaining Federal Conservation Units.

35

36 The next page lists the customary and
37 traditional use determinations within your region and
38 that's by area, by species and the determination.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's on page 30?

41

42 MR. KLEIN: That's on page 29.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. On the left-hand
45 side, on 28, is your 11 projects and then 10 is your
46 customary and traditional use projects then.

47

48 MR. KLEIN: If you turn to page 30, then
49 it covers the existing federal subsistence fisheries.
50 Again, we'll be making some corrections for Katmai

00171

1 National Park in terms of red fish. These are the
2 existing federal fisheries within your region for the
3 Nushagak, Naknek-Kvichak, Togiak, the remainder of
4 Bristol Bay and then Alaska Peninsula and Chignik. This
5 is kind of the broad overview of what we're talking about
6 before we get into the details of the plan.

7

8 The fourth issue is on page 31 and that's
9 study activities not eligible for funding under the
10 Federal Subsistence Fishery Resource Monitoring Program.
11 Actually, I will cover those. Again, we're putting the
12 side boards on the plan here. The Federal Subsistence
13 Board last year issued a decision that some activities
14 we're not going to address and it's not because they're
15 not important, it's that there's other agencies, like the
16 Fish & Wildlife Service, the Park Service, that it's
17 directly within their mission to address those
18 activities.

19

20 First is hatchery propagation,
21 restoration, enhancement and supplementation activities.
22 Basically, where you're going to have hatchery
23 activities, that should be up to the land management
24 agency or the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. The
25 Board did not want to fund projects with hatchery
26 propagation.

27

28 Secondly, habitat protection, restoration
29 and enhancement activities. If you don't have habitat,
30 you're not going to have fish and the Board recognizes
31 that and the Council recognizes that. Again, within the
32 land management agencies, whether it's Park Service or
33 Fish & Wildlife Service, that's really a mandate of the
34 land management agency and it's not something this
35 monitoring program should be funding.

36

37 And, finally, contaminant assessment,
38 evaluation and monitoring activities. Again,
39 contaminants can cause harm to our fish populations, but
40 there's other agencies, like EPA, there's a contaminants
41 program within the Fish & Wildlife Service I know and
42 probably other agencies. The State has the DEC. Those
43 are the entities that really should be looking at
44 contaminants and the Board was not interested in funding
45 projects for those activities.

46

47 So there's three activities that are
48 precluded that are not a part of this monitoring program.
49 If there's questions, feel free to ask those as we
50 proceed.

00172

1 The next section is really the bulk of
2 the planning document. It's a list of your Council
3 issues and information needs. What Steve Fried has done
4 here is he's listed all of your information needs and
5 this is what goes out when we issue a call for proposals
6 and then he's addressed each and every one of those in
7 terms of what we've done to address that issue or
8 information need. He went over these previously with
9 you. If we're going to go over those individually, we
10 would have the one-hour presentation rather than the 15-
11 minute presentation. I believe you already provided
12 comments to Steve on this. Those changes have been made.
13 What you'll need to do when we have this separate meeting
14 is go over this a little more carefully and make sure
15 your changes were incorporated and that this is an
16 accurate list of the needs.

17
18 I'm going to spend most of my time on the
19 last two pages, but if you'll turn to page 37, it begins
20 another heading and this is proposals that were advanced
21 that do not address your issues and information needs.
22 It's not a complete list. It does need revision there.
23 Some studies have come up and they've come before the
24 Council, which you all have supported. There really
25 weren't any issues and information needs that were judged
26 to be a priority and there's a listing of four studies
27 within your region that have been funded that aren't in
28 the issues and information needs. To me, that just says
29 we need a more complete list because those were a
30 priority for you.

31
32 In my next presentation, on the long-term
33 planning for the whole Bristol Bay-Kodiak Region, we'll
34 be discussing those issues and information needs in a
35 little more detail.

36
37 The final part of this five-year plan,
38 and certainly the most important part, is the meat of the
39 five-year plan. I'm on page 38 now. What Steve has done
40 is taken what he's heard from this Council and kind of
41 categorized it into goals and guiding principles, the
42 systems and species that are the highest priority and
43 then specific objectives for those systems and species
44 that implement the goals.

45
46 So, in terms of the goals, Steve
47 identified five goals and these are maintain healthy
48 subsistence fishery resources within your region.
49 Secondly, to maintain a quality subsistence lifestyle for
50 rural residents. Thirdly, to build partnerships among

00173

1 agencies, local organizations, tribes and rural
2 communities to conduct monitoring program activities.
3 You've had a lot of successes in that arena. Fourth,
4 build capacity of rural communities and tribes to
5 meaningfully participate in fishery management and
6 planning decisions with government agencies. You have
7 examples of successes there. Actually, the partners for
8 fisheries monitoring program, which will be debuting and
9 Carl Jack briefed you on, that will help us a lot in
10 terms of building capacity of both rural communities and
11 tribes. The fifth goal in guiding principles is to
12 create opportunities for fishery resource jobs in rural
13 communities and tribal organizations. So those were the
14 goals and guiding principles and those are kind of apple
15 pie things that everybody can get behind. The key for
16 you, in your subsequent meeting, does this adequately
17 represent your goals and then are there other goals that
18 should be on there. When you meet with Steve in your
19 subcommittee, we'll go over those in more detail.

20

21 The systems and species are the next
22 section there. These are the priorities both by river
23 and by species. Of course, salmon are what drives
24 subsistence fisheries here in terms of priority. There's
25 certainly other species. I know for the Togiak, for
26 example, Dolly Varden is listed as a priority. This is
27 where most of the projects have been directed. Within
28 your existing issues and information needs, we do see
29 other species, like Arctic grayling, whitefish and
30 northern pike. Those are of interest and what you need
31 to do is weigh how much of a priority are those species.
32 When you come up with a revised five-year plan, that's
33 one of the main major decisions you're going to have to
34 make, is where do those species fit in the overall
35 priority.

36

37 And then also rainbow trout were brought
38 up. Robert, you brought rainbow trout up and it sounds
39 like you'll have some regulations that address rainbow
40 trout for the next go-round and if rainbow trout are a
41 priority, we would want to add that to the list there.

42

43 Next is six specific objectives and these
44 are objectives that will implement your overall goals.
45 Steve has identified six of those based on the input you
46 have provided him. The first is to get accurate annual
47 estimates of harvest by community, drainage, species and
48 season. To ensure you have healthy resources, you do
49 need accurate estimates of fish harvest.

50

00174

1 Secondly, you need to determine
2 subsistence fishery harvest needs for the communities and
3 determine whether these needs are being met. That's
4 essentially a gap analysis. You look at what is needed
5 for harvest and whether those are being achieved.

6
7 Thirdly is to get accurate abundance
8 estimates along with information on size, sex and age
9 structure. The species we're talking about in the
10 systems, it's chinook, sockeye and coho salmon stocks.

11
12 Fourthly, determine whether the total
13 removals, whether it be sport, commercial, subsistence,
14 the total removal for chinook, sockeye and coho salmon
15 are sustainable. If we're not sustaining the resources or
16 if the removals are too much, then we need to prioritize.

17
18 Fifthly is obtain accurate estimates of
19 Dolly Varden spawning populations and production.
20 Sixthly, determine whether total fishery removals from
21 Dolly Varden stocks is sustainable, similar to salmon.

22
23 So those, based upon your input and the
24 priorities, Steve has seen. These are six objectives
25 he's come up with in addition to the goals and systems
26 and species. The next presentation is actually going to
27 get a little more into the issues and information needs.
28 For your five-year plan, actually, it probably will be
29 integrated more with your issues and information needs.
30 This is kind of the side boards and the overall goals and
31 objectives that we're seeing right now.

32
33 We look forward to sitting down with you
34 and going over this in more detail and I'll try to answer
35 any questions you might have now.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robert.

38
39 MR. HEYANO: The way the funding cycles
40 go, they're just for two years, is that correct?

41
42 MR. KLEIN: In terms of the projects
43 we're funding?

44
45 MR. HEYANO: Right.

46
47 MR. KLEIN: We've been funding them for
48 three years. Up to three years. I'll go over this in
49 the next presentation actually. There are some projects
50 that probably should continue more than three years and

00175

1 those are some decisions we'll need to make. For harvest
2 monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge, those
3 are typically one or two-year studies, but some studies,
4 like accurate estimates of escapement, where you're
5 trying to get escapement goals, those probably need to be
6 conducted for 30 years in most cases.

7

8 MR. HEYANO: Maybe I'm getting ahead of
9 your presentation. So how do we address some of those
10 projects that require longer than three-year funding
11 besides being at the whim of some federal agency to yea
12 or nay it? It seems to me, you know, just off the top of
13 my head, this Togiak River weir evaluation with the video
14 technology, if it doesn't get funded, then all that work
15 that's been done and information kind of just stops.
16 Some of this work in the Lake Clark area on sockeye, same
17 thing. If they're going to have some meaningful
18 information, we need to sit down at some point in time
19 and have a discussion of time frame so we can get some
20 meaningful information. I think we, as a council, need
21 to work on securing funding for that time frame other
22 than state/federal dollars.

23

24 MR. KLEIN: Well, Robert, actually you
25 are getting ahead there because we're going to get into
26 that more in the next presentation. Remember, in 2001,
27 we funded a lot of studies and those were funded for
28 three years. Those went for 2001, 2002 and they'll go in
29 2003. When we get to 2004, you're back to that big chunk
30 of money again. By the time we get to that stage for
31 2004, I think we need to identify what are those long-
32 term studies we need to fund. We really want the
33 councils to be directing that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I would assume by then
36 we will have a pretty good idea of exactly what we want
37 to fund by 2004.

38

39 MR. KLEIN: I think so. You're way ahead
40 of some of your sister councils there in terms of
41 planning a priority. Then, Robert, the second question
42 is -- yeah, once we go through this planning process,
43 we're going to say these should continue in the long term
44 and we're going to list your other priorities. Where the
45 money is, where we draw the line, you're still going to
46 have priorities below that line and then it's incumbent
47 upon all of us to try to get those resources so that your
48 subsistence needs can be met and the people you
49 represent. So it will help us build some funding
50 initiatives to hopefully start addressing some of those

00176

1 that we don't have the funds now.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you. Any other
4 questions, Council members, of Steve? Is that the end of
5 your presentation on this part of the program?

6

7 MR. KLEIN: On this part, the third and
8 final part, is kind of getting into where Robert was
9 going in terms of long-term planning and looking at your
10 issues and information needs.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that's a half an
13 hour program?

14

15 MR. KLEIN: I can make that anywhere from
16 15 minutes to an hour.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Why don't we take about
19 a 10-minute break and then come back and you can give us
20 a briefing on that.

21

22 (Off record - 9:15 a.m.)

23 (On record - 9:30 a.m.)

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Steve, you're on the
26 resource monitoring?

27

28 MR. KLEIN: My third and final
29 presentation, Mr. Chair, is this handout that has the
30 pretty little graph on the bottom. It's entitled long-
31 term planning for the Fishery Resource Monitoring
32 Program.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go for it.

35

36 MR. KLEIN: Okay. First, I want to say
37 for the monitoring program, the involvement of the
38 councils is critical to make sure we're focused on the
39 highest priorities. You live on the river, you harvest
40 the resources, you're critical to the process and your
41 efforts on your five-year plan and now this planning
42 framework I think is essential for the monitoring program
43 to have success. If we don't have priorities, then
44 really we let the projects drive the process and we want
45 your priorities to drive the process, not the proposals
46 that we receive. You're a critical part to make sure we
47 are focused on priorities.

48

49 The graph there kind of discloses and we
50 believe in full disclosure. This is our budget.

00177

1 Actually, it's your budget. This is your monitoring
2 program. This is how your money is being spent and this
3 is for the program overall. In the black, you see the
4 2000 projects that you funded and basically in 2000 we
5 funded about \$5.3 million in projects over the three
6 years. Beginning in 2001, you see kind of a darker
7 brown. We're going to get a color printer for you next
8 time and make this a little easier to read. For 2001 you
9 can see the projects you funded and there we funded
10 \$7.25 million in new projects and you can see that
11 brought the total close to \$9 million. You can see how
12 the 2002 funded projects tiered down. If you look at
13 2002, you just funded some new projects. That's kind of
14 a lighter gray. It wasn't as much money because we
15 funded most of the projects in 2001 and that decreases.
16 Our total pot is going to stay at \$7.25 million, as you
17 see in 2003 and 2004.

18

19 There's two important things. One is the
20 Partner's Program is being implemented and if you look at
21 2002, that's the other shade of gray, that's about \$1.2
22 million a year that will be used for the Partner's
23 Program and that will stay fixed. The second point is in
24 2004 there's going to be close to \$5 million available
25 for new projects. Of course, some of those will be
26 projects that you've already funded that you believe need
27 to continue. Some of that could be new projects. But in
28 terms of the amount of money available for projects, 2004
29 is really going to be the big money year because those
30 2001 projects end. You're on the right track schedule-
31 wise to have a plan in place to start guiding us for how
32 to spend that \$5 million. For the Bristol Bay/Kodiak-
33 Aleutians Region, we're looking at, of that \$5 million,
34 it's probably about 500-600,000 that would go to the
35 Bristol Bay/Kodiak-Aleutians Region.

36

37 What we're asking is whether the
38 monitoring program is addressing the most important
39 regional and statewide issues and information needs.
40 You've correctly realized that some projects need to
41 continue in the long term, some of them are one or two-
42 year projects.

43

44 On page three there's a heading near the
45 bottom, How Well Have Funded Studies Addressed Bristol
46 Bay-Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak-Aleutians Councils'
47 Issues and Information Needs? Actually, let me back up
48 to the top of page three where it says, Future Issues for
49 the FRMP, which is Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
50 There's five questions that I wanted to address with you

00178

1 today.

2

3 First is how well have the studies we've
4 funded addressed your issues and information needs?
5 Secondly, are the most important issues and information
6 needs identified? Thirdly, which issues and information
7 needs require collection of long-term data sets? This is
8 where Robert was ahead of his time. Fourthly, are there
9 other funding sources available? Finally, the fifth,
10 what results have we obtained from the studies we have
11 funded and how have they been used?

12

13 The fifth question we're going to address
14 at your next Council meeting when you've had a chance to
15 review some of the products and we'll have some
16 investigators here and go over the results we've obtained
17 so far in more detail. By answering these questions, we
18 figure out what the information gaps are and we get a
19 framework to guide our activities. Again, we're trying
20 to do this so we're ready to roll in 2004.

21

22 The first question is what's at the
23 bottom of page three, how well have the funded studies
24 addressed your issues and information needs. On page
25 four and five it goes through -- remember, we have three
26 types of information we collect. One is the biological
27 and that's called stocks status and trends. Secondly is
28 harvest monitoring and thirdly is traditional ecological
29 knowledge. All three of those issues are types of data
30 important to implement this monitoring program. On pages
31 four and five, we kind of go over each of those three
32 data types in terms of what studies we have funded.

33

34 For stock status and trends previous
35 covered, I'm going to give a brief status report on the
36 2000 and 2001 studies. For your region, Bristol Bay-
37 Alaska Peninsula, for stock status and trends, there's
38 eight studies that we've funded and that includes the new
39 studies in 2002 that will be initiated. In the Kodiak-
40 Aleutians, there's been three stock status and trends.
41 There is this inter-regional category, which also affects
42 your region and there's one study on escapement goals
43 that will be funded this year. That's a total of 12
44 stock status and trends studies that are being
45 implemented for your region.

46

47 Similar for harvest monitoring, there's
48 seven studies there that have been funded and then
49 another seven studies on traditional ecological
50 knowledge. I'd be pleased to answer any questions you

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1 had on that, but if you look at page five, Steve Fried
2 has kind of come up with his conclusion based upon -- to
3 answer the question are we addressing your issues and
4 information needs. At the bottom of page five, you see
5 that conclusion. It's generally been successful for both
6 your Council and the Kodiak-Aleutians Council, but the
7 issue list needs to be reviewed and revised. The new
8 list should include issues addressed by the monitoring
9 program and should prioritize those for the most
10 important issues. That's your answer to the first
11 question. Basically, we're on target. If we had better
12 priorities, you would be more effective at directing what
13 project proposals we receive and which ones are
14 eventually funded. So that's the answer to the first
15 question.

16

17 The second question is, have your most
18 important issues and information needs been identified
19 for your region and Kodiak-Aleutians. What Steve did was
20 he took a look at your issues and information needs.
21 And, again, those are in your book, in your five-year
22 planning document. He's gone over how we've addressed
23 each of those. Steve has come up with a revision based
24 upon his view of the world and this is only his view. I
25 think it's fairly comprehensive.

26

27 I looked at the notes from your last
28 meetings and some of your new issues and information
29 needs appear on here like, Shirley, you had brought up at
30 the last meeting. For the Egegik, we should be looking
31 at chinook salmon. So, if you look at page six under
32 chinook salmon, the Egegik River is listed there, whereas
33 in the other issues in your initial issues and
34 information needs it is not. Arctic grayling, Shirley,
35 you had brought that up at the last meeting, too. We're
36 listing Arctic grayling as an issue and information need.

37

38 So, he's both added some of the new needs
39 that he's seen, he's deleted some of them that probably
40 shouldn't be there and kind of organized it by species
41 there for stock status and trends and then for harvest
42 monitoring he's broken that into both harvest estimates
43 and study design and then traditional ecological
44 knowledge, he's categorized that to document both harvest
45 and fishery resource knowledge.

46

47 He did identify another category, which
48 is database development and information accessibility. I
49 think the information that we do gather should be
50 organized into a database. You just get so much more

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1 power in analyzing that information when it is in a
2 database and then, secondly, making that accessible. For
3 those of you that have internet access, you should be
4 able to go onto the web and be able to have access to
5 that data and look at the information yourself. That
6 needs to be a priority.

7

8 So, for the second question, in terms of
9 have we identified all the issues that are important,
10 Steve's conclusion is at the end of page seven and it
11 says, both Councils have generally been successful in
12 identifying important issues and information needs, but
13 some additions need to be added. His list of those that
14 should be added for stock status and trends was studies
15 for the Buskin River, the Kametalook, Clark and McLees
16 Rivers. These are areas where you funded studies. Also
17 database development and improved information access.
18 His last sentence there, the importance of and need for
19 stock status and trend studies for northern pike, Arctic
20 grayling and whitefish, which are on your current list.
21 The importance of those species needs to be evaluated and
22 they need to be prioritized in terms of importance there.

23

24

25 Basically, we are on target. Steve has
26 made some additions and that's a draft list that I think,
27 with your five-year planning document, somehow we need to
28 merge the two together so that the issues and information
29 needs that go out when we request proposals are -- we
30 have both the goals and objectives from a five-year
31 document and then these specific issues and information
32 needs. You need to review these. Again, this is my
33 attempt at drafting this. You need to review these and
34 throw in more if there's others, take out some if they're
35 not truly priorities and then prioritize it and focus our
36 issue and information needs. So that's the second
37 question.

38

39

40 The third question is which issues and
41 information needs require long-term data sets. That is
42 addressed on both pages 8 and 9. Steve has done that for
43 both stock status and trends, subsistence harvest
44 monitoring and TEK. This is Steve's draft on what those
45 should be and I think the bottom line is for salmon
46 escapement and he identified specific drainages, but
47 salmon escapement is some of that long-term data that
48 needs to be collected.

48

49

50 In terms of harvest monitoring, if you
look at the bottom of page nine, he's identified some

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1 that is not listed here. Pat gave you a handout on that
2 and that's the Western Alaska Salmon Initiative. That's
3 a \$5 million initiative. It is already funded. It's in
4 the State of Alaska Governor's Fund and I did provide a
5 handout on that for you. I think that's -- it is a
6 Western Alaska Initiative and it does include Bristol
7 Bay. I think it probably will have a Yukon-Kuskokwim
8 focus.

9

10 With \$5 million available, I would hope
11 some of that could come a little bit further south for
12 your area and we're going to be working with that
13 Initiative and there's like seven signatories to that
14 agreement of which the Fish & Wildlife Service will be
15 on, the State of Alaska will be one, Bering Sea
16 Fisherman's Association will be one, to try to use your
17 dollars in the monitoring program to work with that
18 Salmon Initiative and maybe our dollars can go a little
19 further.

20

21 The two items listed here in your
22 document on page 10, they're going to answer things out
23 in the ocean, but this Salmon Initiative for Western
24 Alaska, I think that is a potential alternative or
25 matching funding source that we'll try to pair up to make
26 your dollars go a little further. That answers the
27 question on alternative funding sources. There could be
28 that \$5 million fund or at least a portion of that.

29

30 In conclusion, and on page 10 we have
31 kind of a summary on the conclusions, basically the
32 studies that you have funded are addressing your issues
33 and information needs. I think your most important issues
34 are identified. We need to do some work on prioritizing
35 them and that's going to happen with your planning
36 efforts that are already under way. The long-term data
37 sets, Steve has provided his view of the world, but we
38 need you to take ownership of that view and give us your
39 view. That's just a draft for you to chew on. Then
40 we've looked at the alternative funding sources and, yes,
41 there are some out there that we're going to try to work
42 with. As part of this planning process, we'll try to
43 identify budget initiatives where we don't have enough
44 money to solve all the issues and information needs.

45

46 I think this Council is really on track
47 for planning and guiding this monitoring program and I
48 think our next meeting, which is hopefully before the
49 fall Council meeting, we'll be able to make some more
50 headway on these planning documents. That concludes my

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1 presentation, Mr. Chair, and I'd be happy to answer any
2 questions.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members,
5 questions, comments. I think in your conclusion there on
6 page 10, "It is not clear whether annual or periodic
7 monitoring is needed for other salmon stocks or any Dolly
8 Varden, northern pike, whitefish or Arctic grayling
9 stocks." We have targeted salmon. This Council probably
10 is aware of how many silvers are going into Egegik or
11 what's happening with the king salmon in King Salmon
12 River there in Egegik. You know, a while back, Alaska
13 Department of Fish & Game did not allow certain mesh size
14 so you get the proper return up the Egegik and the branch
15 pretty much takes care of itself. They get 800,000 fish
16 a year that just go up there automatically whether you've
17 got a weir there or not. We know the Kvichak is in big
18 trouble and we're concerned about the silvers and the
19 hook and release in the Kvichak up here and the mortality
20 rate that takes place and those type of things. So we're
21 all keyed in with numbers and everything on these issues.

22

23

24 Robert and I were just talking prior to
25 your presentation this morning on habitat is probably
26 going to be okay unless, you know, the mine comes in up
27 at Sharp Mountain and it drains into both the Nushagak
28 and Iliamna. That's going to be less than 40 years from
29 now because they're looking toward more interest in
30 mining now that there's anti-American activities taking
31 place throughout the world. They're looking into more of
32 that. That's become a big issue in Native corporations
33 because it's a national interest. Well, that has a big
34 effect on a lot of things that we may never be able to
35 stop, such as a road through, you know, effecting a lot
36 of things.

37

38 So I think some of the trout issues in
39 some of the communities, I'm not really -- you know, you
40 live in Naknek, you're not worried about the pike up
41 there. Well, we're worried about it, Andy, but we're not
42 aware of some of these things. Yeah, reassure you, we're
43 worried. I don't sleep at night until about 12:30 and
44 then after that you're on your own. (Laughing) But I
45 think we're a little weak in those areas, so I appreciate
46 you bringing it up in the conclusion.

47

48 It's the responsibility of this Council
49 to make sure the habitat is there, the recruitment stock
50 is there, subsistence needs are met. And if we get to

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1 sports and commercial, fine. But that's exactly what
2 we're going to do on those issues. Do you guys see
3 anything in this that you need to refine or retune or is
4 it okay? Yes, Shirley.

5
6 MS. KELLY: Under the stock status and
7 trends on page six, under chinook salmon, it probably
8 should read Egegik drainage because you're going to look
9 for chinooks mainly up the King Salmon River.

10
11 MR. KLEIN: Okay. It's done.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Council
14 members? That's it, Steve?

15
16 MR. KLEIN: Well, Steve Fried will try to
17 work with Cliff to make a planning meeting that was
18 cancelled here in Dillingham, so we're better prepared
19 for -- well, I think you are prepared, but so at the fall
20 Council meeting we can move ahead some more.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Cliff, maybe we can do
23 a March meeting, late as April? No later than April 1st.

24
25 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, sir.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that okay, Robert?

28
29 MR. HEYANO: We can get together.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. There's four of
32 us that are on that committee and we will plan that,
33 either Dillingham or Naknek, either one. Thank you very
34 much.

35
36 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That concludes our
39 10(B), Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. All right.
40 Screaming right along here.

41
42 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, under C, on
43 migratory birds, Bob Stevens was scheduled to come out
44 here and had some other places to go, so he sent Bill
45 Ostrand out here and Ralph Andersen on the migratory
46 birds. They're going to provide information to the
47 Council on that issue.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Ralph and Bill Ostrand?

50

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1 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Ralph.

4

5 MR. ANDERSEN: Good morning, Mr.

6 Chairman, Members of the Council. For the record, my
7 name is Ralph Andersen of the Natural Resources, program
8 manager BBNA. I'm also staff to the (indiscernible)
9 Council, which is the Bristol Bay Migratory Bird Council.
10 The council appointed me to represent them at the
11 statewide Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council.
12 So, it's in those capacities that I'm here. Bill is with
13 the Fish & Wildlife Service and he teaches staff to the
14 AMBCC, to the Alaska Migratory Bird Council.

15

16 I have a written presentation that I'd
17 like to read to you. I'll keep it as brief as possible
18 in the interest of time. It starts with background and I
19 run through the treaty amendments and a chronology of the
20 activities that the Council has taken so far.

21

22 The original migratory bird treaty was
23 signed by the United States and Canada in 1916 and sets
24 forth the following policies. It establishes the federal
25 authority for migratory bird management, it prevents
26 market or commercial hunting, it protects migratory birds
27 during the nesting season, provides for regulated non-
28 commercial hunting and sets legal open hunting season
29 from September to November and closes hunting from March
30 10th to September 1. The regional treaty did not
31 recognize or provide for any subsistence hunting.

32

33 The United States Senate ratified the
34 amendments in October of 1997. A copy of the protocol
35 and treaty amendments are in your packet. The four
36 primary goals of the treaty amendments are to legalize
37 spring and summer subsistence hunting, to improve
38 conservation of migratory birds by managing all hunts, to
39 avoid significantly increasing subsistence harvest of
40 migratory birds compared to their population size, to
41 involve Native subsistence users in management of
42 migratory birds through participation of management
43 bodies.

44

45 Management of migratory birds is separate
46 from the ANILCA subsistence preference requirements. The
47 Federal Subsistence Board does not regulate the hunts.
48 Migratory Bird Treaty governs management and subsistence
49 hunting, not ANILCA. Recommendations from the management
50 bodies will not be sent to the Federal Subsistence Board

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1 for approval. Instead, they will go directly to the Fish
2 & Wildlife Service Regulations Committee and to the
3 Flyway Councils.

4
5 There are no rural subsistence preference
6 for migratory birds, nor will the regulations be limited
7 only to federal lands. The regulations apply to all
8 lands, state, federal and private.

9
10 In May 1999, after a series of public
11 meetings throughout the state, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife
12 Service published a document describing four options for
13 management bodies to implement the treaty amendments.
14 The general functions of the management bodies are toward
15 consensus on migratory bird issues and recommend actions,
16 to encourage partnerships in implementing actions, to
17 provide local incentives for conservation and sustainable
18 use, and to share influence and responsibility for
19 resource management and conservation.

20
21 The management bodies have the following
22 tasks and responsibilities. Population and harvest
23 monitoring, recommending rules for subsistence harvest,
24 including seasons, law enforcement policies, habitat
25 protection, research and use of traditional knowledge and
26 education programs. Funding for the management bodies is
27 provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and
28 administered to annual funding agreements with the 12
29 regional partners.

30
31 The options presented in '99 by the Fish
32 & Wildlife Service were -- option one was one statewide
33 management body with 12 regional bodies. The second
34 option was one statement management body with 10 regional
35 bodies. The Regional Advisory Councils, such as the
36 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council, would serve as a
37 regional body. Option three was seven regional
38 management bodies with no statewide body. Option four
39 was three regional management bodies with no statewide
40 body.

41
42 In reviewing these options, the Native
43 Migratory Bird Working Group was not satisfied with any
44 of them, so they developed option five, which calls for
45 seven regional bodies and one statewide body. By the
46 way, Robyn Samuelsen served on the Native Migratory Bird
47 Working Group before I got here, so I replaced him.

48
49 In the fall of 1999, BBNA's Natural
50 Resources Department traveled to all 32 villages in its

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1 region and reviewed the options with each of the village
2 councils to find out which of the five options they
3 preferred. The overwhelming majority of the village
4 councils preferred the option proposed by the Native
5 Migratory Bird Working Group. This information was
6 presented to Dave Allen on October 29th, 1999, along with
7 copies of village council resolutions. Copies of the
8 letter to Dave Allen and the resolutions are in your
9 packets.

10

11 On March 28, 2000, the U.S. Fish &
12 Wildlife Service announced its decision in the Federal
13 Register. The model selected is the one proposed by the
14 Native Migratory Bird Working Group, which calls for
15 seven regional management bodies and one statewide body.

16

17 On February 28, 2001, after many lengthy
18 meetings over a period of about a year, the statewide
19 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council was formed
20 with 17 members from the state and federal governments
21 and regional representatives. A copy of its bylaws are
22 included in your packet.

23

24 During the months of December 2000 and
25 January and February 2001, BBNA's Natural Resources
26 Department met with village councils in each of the six
27 sub-regions to reach a consensus on the general
28 organizational structure for Bristol Bay Migratory Bird
29 Co-management Council.

30

31 On February 15, 2001, I informed the
32 village councils of the results of the meetings and
33 provided them with a listing of the sub-regional
34 representatives and alternates that they selected. A
35 copy of my memo to the village councils is in your
36 packet.

37

38 On March 14, 2001, the (indiscernible)
39 Council was formed. A copy of its bylaws are in your
40 packet. I'm proud to say that the Bristol Bay Council
41 was the first to be formed in the state. It's funded
42 through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish &
43 Wildlife Service. The cooperative agreement for this
44 year is in the amount of \$42,500. At this time, it only
45 covers travel and per diem costs for the council, meeting
46 preparation costs for staff and related meeting costs.

47

48 The Statewide Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
49 management Council is charged with, among other things,
50 providing guidelines within which the regional bodies can

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1 recommend harvest regulations and conservation measures.

2

3

4 After nearly a year of reviewing and
5 discussing guidelines, on December 17, 2001, the
6 Statewide Council adopted three guidelines. Copies of
7 these are in your packet. The guidelines are to open the
8 spring and summer hunting season on March 11th and close
9 it on August 31st each year. A list of migratory birds
10 being potentially harvested by subsistence hunters and
11 hunting methods that are illegal during the spring and
12 summer hunting season. The council also adopted a
13 regulatory cycle schedule and a regulation proposal form.
14 A copy of the schedule is in your packet.

15

16 The (indiscernible) Council is scheduled
17 to meet on March 11th and 12th. At this meeting, the
18 council will take action on proposals to open the
19 subsistence hunting season from March 11th to August
20 31st, to close the season for a 30-day period to comply
21 with the Migratory Bird Treaty with Japan, to propose a
22 list of migratory birds for subsistence harvest and
23 hunting methods that are illegal during the spring and
24 summer hunting season. These will be in compliance with
25 the guidelines put forth by the statewide body.

26

27 Until these recommendations are approved
28 by the statewide body and the Federal Service Regulations
29 Committee, spring and summer hunting will continue under
30 the federal closed season policy. That's all I have.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council
33 members? Did you make a copy of that presentation and do
34 we have it in our packet that you just read to us?

35

36 MR. ANDERSEN: No, I don't.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could you make one?

39

40 MR. ANDERSEN: Sure.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Because there's a lot
43 of dates and different things that have happened. I see
44 you've passed out here a memorandum of the people who
45 were on this council and Kvichak and the Peninsula would
46 be the eastern part of the program.

47

48 MR. ANDERSEN: Uh-huh.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Where is the biggest

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1 area of waterfowl migration? Does it come out of Bethel,
2 on down to the Peninsula or does it come back from the
3 south through King Salmon or have you guys talked about
4 that?

5

6 MR. ANDERSEN: In the spring, it's going
7 the other way. It's coming up the Peninsula and over to
8 the Bethel area where the primary nesting grounds are.
9 There's a significant spring hunting over in the Togiak
10 area.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There's a significant
13 one in Naknek, too.

14

15 MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And the refuge people,
18 I don't know if they're the ones that deal with it or
19 not. They don't want us going above -- they said those
20 birds are coming in to the King Salmon area by the
21 hundreds of thousands. I guess they're to rest there or
22 something. They have kind of laid out the boundaries.
23 When Ron Hood, the Ayatollah of the past days of the
24 refuge, some of you may not remember him, kind of took it
25 upon himself to lay out a few geographical areas there,
26 which we got some flack on at the last council meeting
27 over in Naknek.

28

29 We can appreciate the big resting area
30 there at King Salmon and you've got the airport there and
31 population and everything, but down at Paul's Creek and
32 maybe out in those areas is something maybe you guys will
33 have to deal with. I don't know who'd we deal with on
34 that, Ralph, but we might draw some lines where we want
35 to do a little more closer in subsistence.

36

37 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, the ways and
38 the functions of the Bristol Bay Council are not to draw
39 lines on maps. The council will deal mainly with
40 opening/closing seasons, bag limits enforcement and those
41 types.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That was the other
44 question I had. You said you'd close a season for 30
45 days starting after when?

46

47 MR. ANDERSEN: It's during the primary
48 nesting season. The Japanese Treaty requires a closure
49 for 30 days. At the Statewide Council, we're finding
50 that different regions are closing the season during

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1 different times so that there isn't one period where it's
2 uniform across the state.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that was a good
5 one, too, where Ron had to do that because that's a big
6 population. They're there to rest and get some food and
7 then go on. They all migrate out of there. Those are
8 reasonable things that we can live with.

9

10 MR. ANDERSEN: And your other question,
11 I'm not sure what area you're talking about over in
12 Naknek, but unless there's a law that I'm not aware of
13 where a refuge manager can tell people where to hunt even
14 off federal lands, I think that's -- I mean that's news
15 to me.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It works. That's fine.
18 Do you have something enlightening there?

19

20 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes. Mr. Chair, before
21 Ron goes, you know, in the minutes from last year's
22 meeting when we asked Bill and Ralph to make a
23 presentation to the Council, the concern they had was
24 prior to this year it was illegal to hunt birds in the
25 spring and now that it is, prior to that legal spring
26 hunts coming on board, Ron Hood apparently just took it
27 upon himself. He knew that those spring hunts were
28 occurring and he wanted to monitor and be able to close
29 off certain areas. Now that the legal spring hunts are
30 coming on board, the question that Pat Patterson had from
31 Naknek is will those restrictions that Ron implemented
32 because the hunts were illegal, will those fade or
33 disappear?

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Ron.

36

37 MR. SQUIBB: Ron Squibb with the Alaska
38 Peninsula Becharof Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
39 I didn't come prepared to talk to this at length
40 regarding Ralph's comment about the U.S. Fish & Wildlife
41 Service enforcing waterfowl regulations outside of refuge
42 boundaries, that's one of our enforcement authorities, is
43 migratory birds, regardless of boundary in terms of
44 waterfowl enforcement.

45

46 Again, as you have said, Ron Hood, in the
47 past, did define an area and it was during, as you said
48 Cliff, previous to the implementation of the migratory
49 bird regulations. There was a policy of discretionary
50 enforcement and the refuge manager, Ron Hood, chose to

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1 apply his discretionary enforcement to that area between
2 Paul's Creek and the lake outlet. I did get information
3 for this question from the present refuge manager Daryle
4 Lons, that we would continue with those boundaries until
5 the implementation of regulations. Whether during
6 implementation of regulations some of that area is
7 continued to be considered off limits to hunting or not
8 is dependant upon the regulatory process and the
9 development of those regulations. So Daryle thought it
10 best just to leave things as they are. We assumed that
11 the regs would be implemented, as everyone did, sooner.
12 As it's getting very close, we figured it was better at
13 this point just to let it go through that process and
14 leave it the same until that time.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you. I
17 appreciate that. Anything else, guys, that you need to
18 give to us today?

19

20 MR. OSTRAND: Yeah, I just thought I'd
21 have a comment on this issue. This is Bill Ostrand with
22 the staff to the Co-management Council. When the Fish &
23 Wildlife Service implements regulations that control the
24 hunt of migratory birds, states, land management agencies
25 and private land owners can be more restrictive than
26 those regulations. They can't be more liberal. So, if
27 the Park Service or a park manager or private landowner
28 wished to somehow further restrict the hunting of
29 migratory birds, they could do so. I just hope that
30 helps a little bit.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else,
33 guys? Yes, Robert.

34

35 MR. HEYANO: The question back to the
36 issue in Naknek drainage and Paul's Creek, I guess I'm
37 not clear on what was the reason that the restrictions
38 were placed to begin with. Is it for conservation? Is
39 it a conservation issue? Can somebody answer that? I
40 think, Mr. Chairman, where I'm going is that since the
41 regulations don't develop where you can and can't hunt
42 birds, why are we waiting for the regulations to come out
43 if this has been a traditional area that people have
44 hunted? If the restrictions weren't in place for
45 conservation reasons, I'm having a hard time following
46 the logic here on why we're waiting for regulations if
47 it's an agency discretionary policy.

48

49 MR. SQUIBB: Again, Ron Squibb, U.S. Fish
50 & Wildlife Service, King Salmon. Again, I'm not

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1 completely aware of all the details of this, so take what
2 I say with a grain of salt because I'm not a law
3 enforcement officer, but the reason behind why Ron had
4 chosen to enforce the existing waterfowl regulations in
5 that area was that in the spring time, as the rivers thaw
6 in that part of the bay, the Naknek seems to open up
7 early and, from waterfowl surveys Fish & Wildlife Service
8 has done on the aerial service on the Naknek, the
9 Kvichak, the Egegik and Ugachik Rivers and the associated
10 estuaries during that time of the year, that has the
11 highest concentration of birds. As a conservation thing,
12 he felt it was worth keeping hunters out of there and
13 disturbing them as much as possible during the spring.
14 Again, I wasn't the one who initiated those surveys.
15 Donna Dewhurst, the previous biologist, did it at the
16 refuge.

17
18 Again, I'm not the bird biologist on the
19 refuge, it's Susan Savage, but my understanding is the
20 Naknek is opened up a little bit earlier and that was the
21 reason there for the conservation angle. What stemmed it
22 was a local hunter shooting from Grassy Point area one
23 time and disturbing a lot of the waterfowl, so that
24 instigated Ron to do that with discretionary enforcement.
25 Again, I don't know all the details.

26
27 I do know in discussions afterward at
28 other meetings that a lot of the local people who do hunt
29 waterfowl in the spring time in the area did remark that
30 traditionally they did not hunt in front of the Fish &
31 Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game
32 offices, which are in that section of the river for
33 obvious reasons. They didn't want to bring enforcement
34 upon themselves by blatantly hunting right in front.
35 Then once the word got out that spring waterfowl hunting
36 was in the works to be implemented, someone heard that
37 and took it upon themselves, well, it's wide open and
38 chose to start shooting at Grassy Point. There were a
39 few complaints. I can't tell you those or who they were
40 from or why, but that information instigated refuge
41 manager Ron Hood to use discretionary enforcement.

42
43 That was the first year I got to the
44 refuge in '97 and even then we anticipated regs in a
45 couple years. As you know, it's been taking longer than
46 people anticipated. At this stage, Daryle Lons, as the
47 current refuge manager, thinks that by next year or
48 hopefully in two years we'll have something. Rather than
49 change it once and then change it again, we'll just leave
50 it alone, as is.

00193

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that the long answer
2 to his question?

3
4 MR. SQUIBB: That's all I know on the
5 subject.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't think he
8 answered your question.

9
10 MR. SQUIBB: I thought your question was
11 where that came from and why.

12
13 MR. HEYANO: Right. And I guess the
14 other part of the question, was it for conservation
15 reasons?

16
17 MR. SQUIBB: Like I said, for
18 conservation reasons, they're trying to protect those
19 waterfowl when they have no other place to go to forage.
20 Like I said, that seems to be the most heavily used river
21 in terms of density in length of river from the surveys.
22 I was only involved in flying those once, but that time I
23 flew it was apparent. Also, at that time, in terms of
24 their energetics, if you keep flushing them and letting
25 them come back and keep flushing them and let them come
26 back, when they've got no place else to go during that
27 period to forage, that was the conservation argument
28 behind it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Robert?

31
32 MR. HEYANO: My recall of the testimony,
33 especially from Alan Aspland, is that they used to hunt
34 there in the past.

35
36 MR. SQUIBB: Paul's Creek, yes.

37
38 MR. HEYANO: They weren't allowed.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, they hunted the
41 whole area in Paul's Creek.

42
43 MR. HEYANO: There was some gentleman
44 type or some local understanding when the Air Force Base
45 was there as far as where they would hunt and not hunt.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We have representatives
48 now on this Council that we're going to have to deal with
49 if we want a bigger piece of the pie.

50

00194

1 MR. HEYANO: I think it was addressed to
2 us, Mr. Chairman, as a concern and I just want to make
3 sure we address it to the best of our ability. If it
4 isn't a conservation concern, then I think those folks
5 ought to be allowed to participate in that area. I don't
6 know how we get that message across.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I guess that's a job
9 for cliff to work on. It has to come in a form of a
10 proposal if they're going to ask us.

11
12 MR. HEYANO: No.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Or if they want to have
15 input to that council, the Bristol Bay Council that's
16 already existing, we can certainly do it.

17
18 MR. HEYANO: My understanding is that
19 Bristol Bay Council, Waterfowl Council, doesn't address
20 where the hunting takes place. They don't draw lines on
21 the map. They set seasons, methods and means and bag
22 limits and what you can and can't shoot. I think this is
23 a land manager issue here.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So we enter in with the
26 Fish & Wildlife refuge people in to deal with it?
27 Robert.

28
29 MR. HEYANO: I think we need to ask them
30 because it is refuge land, right?

31
32 MR. SQUIBB: No, sir. Again, the use of
33 discretionary enforcement is related to the Fish &
34 Wildlife Service's authority to enforce regulations on
35 refuge lands. Those are not refuge lands. It's based on
36 the Fish & Wildlife Service's authority to enforce
37 waterfowl hunting regulations.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In other words, it's a
40 federal bird and you're a federal program, so you can
41 enforce it anywhere you want.

42
43 MR. SQUIBB: Fish & Wildlife Service law
44 enforcement officers can enforce, as the State Fish &
45 Game officers can enforce waterfowl regulations. That's
46 our law enforcement authority outside of refuge
47 boundaries.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think we ought to put
50 this on our fall meeting. It's looking more like a

00195

1 Naknek meeting all the time. Ron, thank you for your
2 help. We appreciate it.

3

4 MR. SQUIBB: I'm sorry I don't know more
5 on the issue.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's all right.

8

9 MR. OSTRAND: I was going to mention that
10 the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council could
11 close areas or recommend -- actually, the council only
12 makes recommendations, but it could recommend a closure.
13 There's no proposal for a closure in the area that you're
14 talking about before the council at this time.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Can you open?

17

18 MR. OSTRAND: Right now, yes, the council
19 can open areas. Right now southcentral Alaska and
20 southeast Alaska are closed to spring and summer hunting
21 under the treaty and there's a provision in the treaty to
22 open any area that meets a traditional use requirement
23 and those requirements will be set by the council.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Bill, you're the
26 manager for this council?

27

28 MR. OSTRAND: No, I'm not. Fred
29 Armstrong is the executive director.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's your job?

32

33 MR. OSTRAND: I'm a biologist and I work
34 for Fred and I assist Fred in his tasks.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: When does this council
37 meet again and where?

38

39 MR. ANDERSEN: The Statewide Council
40 meets the whole last week of March in Anchorage.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The one we're
43 interested in is this one here in Bristol Bay. When do
44 they meet?

45

46 MR. ANDERSEN: March 11th and 12th here
47 in Dillingham.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 11th and 12th.

50

00196

1 MR. ANDERSEN: I just wanted to mention
2 something about enforcement. Right now the Statewide
3 Council -- I mean the way the structure is set up,
4 Statewide Council develops guidelines for regulations.
5 So far, the State Council has only approved three
6 guidelines; to open the season, a list of birds and I
7 forget what the third one is right off the top of my
8 head. So far there's only three guidelines. There's a
9 whole area that's going to need a lot of discussion, not
10 only at the state level, but at the regional level
11 regarding enforcement. That part of the spring hunt is
12 going to be really expensive the way I see it. It's the
13 regional bodies that would develop regulations or
14 proposed regulations for the regions on enforcement.

15
16 A lot of the other regulations as well
17 have never been put in writing before for the spring
18 hunts. I mean we've gone out and done it. I mean that's
19 something that the Statewide Council is really hesitant
20 to begin addressing because it's practicing -- I mean the
21 general philosophy that I've seen at the state level is
22 that we want to legalize the things that we've been doing
23 forever. The enforcement would be a new concept in
24 subsistence, in practicing subsistence. I mean when you
25 go out and fish, you don't get penalized for catching too
26 many fish when you're subsistence fishing and that's the
27 way the practice has been all over the state.

28
29 On the same token, we haven't seen,
30 traditionally anyway, there haven't been any penalties
31 among the Inupiat Eskimos up north, the Yupiks in Bristol
32 Bay and other cultures in the state that would penalize
33 someone for getting too many geese or too many birds.

34
35 One of the things that I've heard at the
36 state level just in discussions with council members is
37 that there are areas that are new to us. When does a
38 subsistence hunt, a traditional hunt become a regular
39 hunt? I think those are the questions that -- as we
40 begin to document and develop rules for our subsistence
41 hunting practices, because it's regulated, then it
42 becomes more of a regular hunt. Those are the things
43 that I've heard in discussions and working with the State
44 Council and the regional body.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comments,
47 guys? Robert.

48
49 MR. HEYANO: I'm glad to hear you say
50 what you want to do is to allow what's currently

00197

1 happening in the spring migratory bird hunt.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's always happened.

4

5 MR. HEYANO: Therefore, under what
6 hunting methods are illegal during the spring and summer
7 seasons, I strongly suggest at your 11th and 12th meeting
8 that you delete hunting from any type of aircraft for
9 this region. There's plenty of information to show that
10 people use airplanes to take spring birds way before they
11 had a skiff and way before they had a snowmachine. I
12 would like to see us recommend that to be deleted as a
13 prohibited method.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's really easier to
16 hunt with an airplane than it is to build a road from
17 Anchorage down here and put all those Winnebagos in the
18 branch. I'm sure the Park Service would probably like
19 the airplane better than the Winnebagos. That's a good
20 point. Pete.

21

22 MR. ABRAHAM: I guess when the
23 regulations start forming, I guess you people will start
24 mentioning the endangered species whose numbers are low?

25

26 MR. ANDERSEN: At the December 17th
27 meeting in Anchorage, the statewide body took up the
28 matter of birds that can't be hunted for spring hunting.
29 There's a lot of discussion. There's no agreement on the
30 migratory birds that cannot be hunted. There was no
31 agreement among the council members to close off any
32 birds from subsistence hunting. In fact, I was talking
33 this morning with Bill and he was mentioning that people
34 further up north on the coast have always hunted eiders
35 and what we don't want to do is make them outlaws.

36

37 As far as the emperors, especially down
38 at Port Heiden, I know that there are a lot of emperor
39 geese down there and one of the things that I've been
40 concerned about is that the Fish & Wildlife Service set
41 out an optimum population number that has never been
42 reached. So I'm wondering if the population number is
43 too high and I think that might be the case. If you set
44 a population number to target for and you've only reached
45 it once in the past 20 years, then maybe something is
46 wrong.

47

48 MR. ABRAHAM: For emperor geese, we know
49 there is a decline on the numbers. Emperor geese is our
50 geese. That's an Alaskan bird. With a co-management

00198

1 agreement, the other species has grown in numbers, except
2 for the emperor geese. It would be a shame if the
3 numbers declined more and Japan, Mexico and Canada will
4 say, hey, what's wrong with you Alaskans, how come you're
5 not taking care of your birds out there. We know the
6 decline is there because I come from where they nest up
7 there. They're the tamest geese in the geese family.
8 You can call them and they come up to you. That's why
9 the numbers are declining. As for the spectacled eiders,
10 the number has declined since we had an oil spill because
11 that's where they hang around. There are a couple other
12 species that are declining, too.

13

14 In the Togiak area in spring time, we
15 tell the people don't shoot the emperor geese. We make
16 this practice in the schools, telling them this is our
17 bird, so let's keep the population healthy, let's help
18 them grow. I give a presentation in small villages,
19 Goodnews Bay, Togiak, Quinhagak. They're willing to
20 help. Spectacled eider, there's still an ongoing study
21 on their population. So, I guess in the regulations that
22 would be included, what species you're not supposed to
23 hunt. It will be simple.

24

25 MR. ANDERSEN: Like I say, there's one
26 being considered at the state level. Like I explained,
27 the state group sets the guidelines. The regional groups
28 develop the regulations. Robert, getting back to your
29 point about the aircraft, if I remember our discussion on
30 this, it wasn't using aircraft to -- it wasn't
31 prohibiting the use of aircraft to go to a campsite and
32 that type of thing. I think it was shooting birds from
33 planes.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: When you shoot a bird
36 from the air, you never get it, so there's really no
37 advantage there. I mean that's what I understand.
38 (Laughing) Anything else, guys?

39

40 MR. OSTRAND: Mr. Chair, on that
41 issue.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: On that issue?

44

45 MR. OSTRAND: Yes. When the Co-
46 management Council first started, there was a proposal by
47 the Fish & Wildlife Service that -- and this came from
48 the Y-K Delta -- to outlaw the use of aircraft to get to
49 the hunting site and that idea has gone by the way. In
50 fact, the representative to the council that proposed

00199

1 that no longer sits on the council and we have a new Fish
2 & Wildlife Service representative. Tell me if this is
3 unclear, but the intent of that is to say you can't shoot
4 from an airplane at birds. So you can't go flying long
5 and open up the window.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah. You know,
8 you shoot the tip of your prop off and then you've got to
9 land and file off the other side to make it the same
10 balance as the other one. That's what I'm told. Is that
11 all you have, guys? Thanks. What about the Togiak
12 National Refuge? Aaron, can you give us a report before
13 we go to a break? Thanks, guys, that was a good, lively
14 report there. Yes, sir.

15
16 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 Andy Aderman, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. In your
18 book, under Tab F, starting on page 52 is an information
19 bulletin that describes about 30 different projects that
20 the refuge is involved with. Many of these are long-term
21 projects that we've talked to you before about.

22
23 There are five or six new projects
24 planned for 2002. Among those new projects is an oral
25 history and traditional knowledge gathering project.
26 Also expansion of Dolly Varden life history study to the
27 Kanektok drainage. Another new project planned for this
28 year is a wolf population survey. I'll just touch
29 briefly on a couple of the wildlife projects. I might
30 mention that there are names associated with each of
31 these projects. If there's questions, please feel free
32 to contact these people. The phone numbers are on the
33 first page.

34
35 With Nushagak Peninsula caribou, the
36 planning committee met in early December. They proposed
37 no new changes to the hunting season. The number of
38 permits is the same as in past years. One thing that is
39 a little different this year is now that we're below the
40 1,000 population level, according to our management plan,
41 we're shooting for a maximum of 10 percent on the harvest
42 objective and we'll be monitoring that closely this month
43 to ensure that we don't exceed that.

44
45 Moving on to moose, I reported to you at
46 your last meeting that we had excellent calf production
47 to our radio-collared animals over in Unit 17A. Equally
48 impressive is the survival that those calves had until
49 late November. Sixty percent of those calves were still
50 alive. A little over a week ago we were able to conduct

00200

1 a survey of most of Unit 17A under pretty much ideal
2 conditions and we counted 652 moose. Of that 652 moose,
3 almost 20 percent was calves and that's a pretty
4 phenomenal number.

5
6 I prepared a supplemental information
7 bulletin. I mailed that to each of the Council members.
8 In addition, it was mailed to members of the Nushagak and
9 Togiak Advisory Committees and to Traditional Councils of
10 all the villages that have C&T for Unit 17A moose. We
11 did that, if you recall, from the draft management plan.
12 Goal three, objective three states that when there's more
13 than 600 moose in the Togiak drainage, that a winter hunt
14 be established.

15
16 I'll conclude my report on kind of a
17 somber note. Well, not kind of, it is. Togiak Refuge
18 lost one of its staff members last week. Refuge
19 Information Technician Charlie Evans passed away.
20 Charlie was an RIT in Quinahak since 1988 and I'd ask
21 that we keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.
22 That concludes my presentation.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions Council
25 members you might have?

26
27 MR. ABRAHAM: I just have a question for
28 Andy on moose count. When you say 652 animals, is that
29 an exact number or you can add 10 percent to it and say
30 you have over 700? Because every little corner you
31 cannot really see.

32
33 MR. ADERMAN: We covered basically every
34 foot between the Nushagak Peninsula and out to and
35 including the Metoyak drainage. Certainly, we probably
36 missed a few moose, but given the conditions that we had,
37 complete snow, good lighting, I think it's pretty close
38 to the mark and I think 10 percent would be kind of high
39 of a figure of moose that we missed.

40
41 MR. ABRAHAM: So maybe five percent would
42 be a better number. I worked with Charlie Evans for
43 quite a while. He was a super guy. He knows the
44 wilderness. He knows how to live out there. One time, I
45 guess, his fellow worker from the office was up there and
46 he came there. He's a subsistence hunter. The guy had
47 been feeding a squirrel there and Charlie came and shot
48 the squirrel and hung the meat and dried the skin. One
49 time the refuge manager wanted us to report every
50 incident we have. Well, Charlie, he's not a good writer

00201

1 in English, but he's a good writer in Yupik, so he
2 decided to report everything in Yupik and nobody could
3 understand what the report was. So I got a call from
4 Togiak to come to Dillingham and translate his report.
5 It took me two days to translate it. He was a funny guy
6 and an intelligent person. We miss him. Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions of
9 Andy? Yeah.

10

11 MR. HEYANO: Based on your latest moose
12 count, Andy, are you going to get that planning team that
13 drafted the moose management plan together to draft a
14 proposal for a winter hunt that we can look at?

15

16 MR. ADERMAN: We certainly could try to
17 do that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Andy, this has been
20 quite a population explosion on that moose from the last
21 time we had a report. We were struggling at four or 500
22 and now we have a good, healthy population. Has there
23 been any increase on predators in the area? The brown
24 bear population in the Togiak area, I don't think, is
25 anything compared to the Peninsula. And I don't know if
26 the wolves have moved into the area. Why have we had
27 such a great success in getting these numbers?

28

29 MR. ADERMAN: I'll answer the second part
30 of your question first. I think we've had fairly mild
31 winters. There wasn't a lot of predators to begin with.
32 They had habitat that hadn't been utilized for quite a
33 long time.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good habitat. I mean
36 you've got a lot of good habitat there.

37

38 MR. ADERMAN: We had the benefit of
39 Mulchatna caribou coming in and providing an alternative
40 meat source in some years. I think a combination of
41 those factors and folks in Togiak laying off the moose.
42 All those things combined really helped.

43

44 To answer the first part of your
45 question, we don't have good information on bears and
46 wolves. Bears have always been there as far as we know.
47 Locals will tell you, or what I've been hearing, that
48 bears are increasing, wolves are increasing and I think
49 that stands to reason when you go from almost no moose or
50 caribou 10 years ago to the numbers that we've seen over

00202

1 the last 10 years.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You had good snow for a
4 good count, too.

5

6 MR. ADERMAN: Right.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What happened with your
9 Nushagak Peninsula animals, the caribou herd that was
10 transplanted? You said they're at 1,000. Didn't we have
11 a higher number than that at different times, 1,500?

12

13 MR. ADERMAN: That herd probably peaked
14 at about 1,400 animals in '97, '98 and we've seen reduced
15 calf recruitment, we've seen increased adult mortality
16 and we've seen -- I lost my train of thought.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How did you lose adult
19 -- increase in adult mortality? What happened there?
20 Did predators come in and get them or more animals being
21 killed or what?

22

23 MR. ADERMAN: A lot of mortality to the
24 radio-collared animals, it's difficult to determine the
25 exact cause of death. Where I lost my train of thought
26 is we have seen increased hunter harvest, especially last
27 year. Part of the management plan for that herd was to
28 maintain a maximum of 1,000 on the Peninsula.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So you're okay.

31

32 MR. ADERMAN: We're probably where we
33 should be.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions,
36 Council members? Pete and then Robert.

37

38 MR. ABRAHAM: On Cape Constantine, the
39 herd down there, when the cup overflows, the overflows go
40 that way. So I think the cup overflowed and some are
41 behind Twin Hills, between Togiak Lake and Togiak and
42 some are down by Cape Newenham. They because residents
43 over there. Especially by Cape Newenham ways, the
44 numbers are increasing slowly. I think they started off
45 with 12 animals down there. I think they're up to close
46 to 60 animals down there now.

47

48 MR. ADERMAN: It's varied. There was
49 probably 60 or 70 animals, which were mostly all bulls
50 last summer out in that area, Cape Newenham.

00203

1 MR. ABRAHAM: And the ones between Togiak
2 Lake and Togiak, do they hang around by Pongo area?

3
4 MR. ADERMAN: We're seeing little groups
5 of caribou all over the refuge at any given time of the
6 year. I suspect a lot of those are Mulchatna animals.

7
8 MR. ABRAHAM: But they became residents
9 over there. I believe they are. From the reports from
10 the guides that come in in the summertime or the fall
11 time, I talk to the pilots often over there. They've
12 been telling me they're seeing more caribou often more
13 than before, so the report is about 75 percent more than
14 six, eight years ago or so. But they're a scattered
15 group between here and there.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Andy, thank you very
18 much. Excuse me, Robert. I'm sorry. Go for it, Robert.

19
20 MR. HEYANO: Thank you. Andy, on the
21 comprehensive conservation plan for the refuge, during
22 your planning meetings, has anybody advocated for
23 increasing the number of permitted guides for bear?

24
25 MR. ADERMAN: I would have to find out.
26 I don't know that answer. Mark?

27
28 MR. LISAC: Yes, I think there has been a
29 couple people that have been in the office expressing
30 interest and getting a permit to hunt on the refuge. I'm
31 not real up on how that's handled. I think there are
32 three areas. The refuge is divided into three areas and
33 there's one guide per area, I believe, but I'm not
34 certain on that.

35
36 MR. ABRAHAM: Is that federal hunt, you
37 mean, permits?

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It would have to be
40 federal hunts on federal lands. Go ahead.

41
42 MR. HEYANO: My understand is that the
43 existing plan in the refuge stipulates how many
44 commercial guides for brown bear are allowed and I think
45 the number is three. The feedback I've been getting is
46 that the bear population is increasing and there's some
47 folks who are advocating that you increased that number
48 to some number greater than three to allow for more
49 opportunity. That's been brought up, right, in the plan?
50

00204

1 MR. LISAC: I couldn't tell you for
2 certain where it's at in the plan. I think the plan is
3 still in the development process. I know for sure there
4 have been people in the office expressing that interest
5 and concern.

6
7 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Shirley.

10
11 MS. KELLY: Getting back to the moose in
12 17A, with the last three years reported harvest, how does
13 that compare to the 10-year average?

14
15 MR. ADERMAN: There's been a legal fall
16 hunt that just started in 1997. Before that it was
17 closed back to 1981. The harvest numbers that Jim has
18 gotten, I believe the first year was 15, the next three
19 years was 10 and then this last year was seven.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So practically non-
22 existent as far as harvest goes. We've just been trying
23 to get that to 600 and we've finally done it. Any other
24 questions? Okay. Thank you, Andy. We appreciate that.
25 We're going to take a break, but after the break we have
26 the Alaska Peninsula Becharof National Wildlife Refuge
27 and that will be the people in King Salmon. And then the
28 Alagnak Wild River, Tom, that doesn't exist as far as a
29 report goes?

30
31 MR. O'HARA: That would be Mary's.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, that's already
34 been done. How about the Aniakchak National Park and
35 Preserve?

36
37 MR. O'HARA: Two small things to bring
38 up.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We'll have that.
41 Is there Bureau of Lands people here today?

42
43 MR. HEYANO: No.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And then we do
46 have the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. We'll gather
47 all you guys together in one bunch and we'll have a
48 report on that. So, when we come back, we'll do the
49 Alaska Peninsula Becharof Refuge after a 10-minute break.
50

00205

1 (Off record - 10:45 a.m.)

2 (On record - 11:00 a.m.)

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We'll take the
5 Alaska Peninsula Becharof National Wildlife Refuge,
6 Daryle Lons and company. Ron Squibb, are you going to
7 handle that?

8

9 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Give us a tab.

12

13 MR. SQUIBB: Tab F, I believe, and it
14 would be page 59. Mr. Chairman and Council, Ron Squibb,
15 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Peninsula and
16 Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, King Salmon. What
17 I'll do is just hit the high points and new information
18 on our written report and then entertain any questions
19 for more details afterward.

20

21 On our revision of our Comprehensive
22 Conservation Plan for the refuges, the public release of
23 the draft, unfortunately, has been delayed because the
24 new Fish & Wildlife Service director, who was just
25 appointed with the new administration in Washington,
26 D.C., wants to review it. It's the first plan to come
27 out of the Alaska Region. Right now Daryle Lons, our
28 refuge manager, isn't attending this meeting because he's
29 in Anchorage preparing for that review and then I think
30 it will be in the next couple weeks.

31

32 On caribou issues, the only new
33 information we have is the -- you might recall we put
34 some satellite telemetry collars on several animals in
35 the refuge survey area for the summer count and that
36 survey area is in the Aleutian Mountain range for the
37 most part, from the Katmai Park boundary to Kejulik Bay.
38 We put those on there in order to try and determine what
39 difference there might be amongst those animals versus
40 the rest of the herd as the numbers in that area remain
41 stable while the rest of the herd was declining.

42

43 As it turns out to date, those animals
44 moved out of the mountains. Almost all but one of the 13
45 collared cows did and moved by the 1st of December into
46 the traditional wintering range for the Northern Alaska
47 Peninsula caribou herd between the Egegik River, Becharof
48 Lake and the Naknek River as of the beginning of

49

50 Moose trend surveys, during November and

00206

1 December, you can look at Table 1, which has the new ones
2 in addition to all the previous ones the refuge was
3 involved with in recent years. Last fall we worked very
4 closely with Alaska Department of Fish & Game and with
5 the National Park Service in these surveys. We were
6 involved in surveying six trend areas during November and
7 December and a little over 600 moose were classified,
8 ratios were 42 bulls per 100 cows and 16 calves per 100
9 cows. Our observation rates were 34 moose per hour and
10 that averaged out to about 0.8 moose per square mile in
11 the trend areas we surveyed.

12

13 The moose harvest data you requested for
14 the refuge is in Table 2 in the report and that
15 information is based on the reports from the hunting
16 guides that are permitted to guide on refuge lands and
17 they give to us a copy of the harvest report and they
18 give a copy to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. The
19 data for air taxis in that table came from Dave
20 interviewing the air taxi operators on the number of
21 people they took out on moose hunting charters and how
22 many moose came back with those. So, therefore, the
23 number of air taxi moose hunters is actually the number
24 of people that were passengers and some of them may or
25 may not have been a hunter, but that's the best
26 information we have.

27

28 In total, 62 total guided and air taxi
29 moose hunters together harvested 42 total moose of refuge
30 lands. I did not get prepared before the report was
31 published in the booklet the harvest data of residency
32 and Dick Sellers was kind enough to give me the state
33 data on reported harvest by residency and I thought we
34 would have an overhead projector here and I couldn't find
35 one, so I apologize to the audience. There are some
36 copies on the desk, but not enough for everyone. I
37 apologize and I thought I would have that available.

38

39 In game managing in 9E, 95 moose were
40 reported taken by a total of 165 hunters and of the
41 reporting hunters, 8 percent were local, 22 percent were
42 other Alaskan residents and 70 percent were non-
43 residents. On 9C, 48 total moose were reported taken by
44 132 hunters and the reporting hunters were 57 percent
45 local, 18 percent other Alaskan and 25 percent non-
46 resident. 9B and 9A are on there also because Dick
47 Seller thought it might be of interest to you, but I
48 won't discuss those since they're outside of the areas of
49 the refuge boundary.

50

00207

1 On the brown bear harvest, back to Table
2 2 in the booklet, as with the moose data, these reports
3 were from our law enforcement officer pilot, Dave Cox.
4 He manages the guide data and those are based on --
5 they're hunting guides reports as well as his interviews
6 with air taxi operators, as for moose. In total, 124
7 guided and air taxi hunters took 71 brown bear during the
8 fall hunt.

9
10 On the issues of enforcement patrol, we
11 did get funding this year for a new law enforcement pilot
12 position. We hope to have him working and on board at
13 the refuge this summer and that will provide us twice the
14 potential for law enforcement patrol and other patrol and
15 survey work. So we're looking forward to that.

16
17 Those were the high points. I'll take
18 any questions you want for details or on other topics.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I have a question. You
21 say you have another law enforcement pilot coming on
22 board to go with Dave Cox?

23
24 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir. The position, I
25 think, is in some stage of the announcement process, so
26 we have no idea who the individual is, but, yes, we've
27 got funding for that and it's either announced or to be
28 announced soon.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
31 members? Thank you very much, Ron. We appreciate that.
32 The Lake Clark one has been done. Aniakchak National
33 Park and Preserve. Tom.

34
35 MR. O'HARA: Good morning, Chair and
36 Council. The first thing I'd like to show you is a map
37 that our SRC, the Aniakchak SRC, requested. They and the
38 law enforcement officers and managers confused of whose
39 area was chose and whose laws applied to what types of
40 land. So we sat down and looked at it and said we have
41 two types of regulations, one is federal, one is state,
42 so let's make a map of two colors, one for federal, one
43 for state.

44
45 So, anyway, this is what we came up with.
46 I just wanted to show it to you so if anybody else wants
47 to have maps made for their agencies, our computer
48 wizards in Anchorage came up with a fairly simple way to
49 do it. Anyway, this is what we came up with. Federal
50 land is in the green and state land is in the gray.

00208

1 They've put topo maps underneath it, so now state
2 troopers, Fish & Wildlife Service, the law enforcement
3 people, we can all tell kind of where our land is at and
4 which laws apply. So that's our big plus. That's one of
5 the things that we are going to enjoy being able to use.
6

7

8 Another thing I'm glad you asked earlier
9 about, our conflicts with sport hunters, drop-off
10 hunters. That is a big concern for the Aniakchak SRC.
11 Someone accidentally took these papers home last night and
12 then brought them back in the middle of the meeting
13 today, so that's why you didn't have them on the desk
14 before. This just shows our guided hunts. It does not
15 show the drop-off hunts. We don't have a good method
16 right now for tracking our drop-off hunts other than
17 people that I find in the field while I'm doing law
18 enforcement patrols to go out and talk to them. I'm
19 fairly confident with the numbers that I know. I came
20 across four guys last year that were drop-off hunters. A
21 small area, pretty easy for me to figure out, but it's
22 still a conflict with our subsistence users. So they are
23 looking for assistance in coming up with a proposal that
24 will work to eliminate some of the conflicts. By your
25 next fall meeting, we will hopefully have a good proposal
26 that will work for subsistence hunters and for the sport
27 hunters as well, so there won't be a conflict.
28

29 One other note that I wanted to bring up
30 was that the Aniakchak SRC approved our one open seat
31 that we had with actually a person from Nondalton, so we
32 just kind of married our Lake Clark board to our
33 Aniakchak board. Walter Noodlash (ph) has moved two or
34 three years ago from Nondalton to Port Heiden and was
35 interested in serving on the Aniakchak SRC board and the
36 board approved him to be nominated to the director of the
37 Department of the Interior. So Walter is going to
38 hopefully be put on for our next scheduled SRC meeting.
39 One note that I would like you to take action on, I
40 forgot last year to put Alvin Beskoski's (ph) name on the
41 list to be reappointed by the Bristol Bay Regional
42 Advisory Council. He is a long-standing member,
43 outstanding board member, very knowledgeable and our SRC
44 would like him reappointed again.
45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. We'd
47 probably like to take action at this time to have a
48 motion to put Alvin Beskoski, a former Council member,
49 very knowledgeable in the area, so we should have a
50 motion to put Alvin Beskoski on the SRC. What's it

00209

1 called down there?

2

3 MR. O'HARA: Aniakchak Subsistence
4 Resource Commission.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there a motion?

7

8 MS. KELLY: I'll make the motion.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Moved by Shirley.

11

12 MR. HEYANO: Second.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any discussion? All
15 those in favor say aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

20

21 (No opposing votes)

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else,
24 Tom?

25

26 MR. O'HARA: I have a question for you.
27 I'm not sure who will be able to give us the best answer.
28 I've had some questions from community members on how to
29 make suggestions on who appoints -- you're missing a
30 member on your board. They are concerned that there's
31 nobody representing the lower peninsula. They're very
32 happy with the knowledge you guys have and the working
33 relationship you have, but they would really like to see
34 somebody from their area on your Council, but they're not
35 sure who to call to support.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We have a guy who can
38 answer that question. Go for it, man. That's an
39 excellent question because somewhat of a geographical
40 representation is very important.

41

42 MR. EDENSHAW: Tom, what I suggest is
43 that in the past we've received letters from -- for
44 instance, BBNA has sent in a letter of recommendation of
45 who they would like to see appointed to the Council. So,
46 if you know the individuals who have submitted
47 applications to the Council because the deadline has
48 already passed, then perhaps that village or that SRC --
49 they're always welcome to send in letters of
50 recommendation for those candidates, stating that they

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1 would like to see those individuals possibly appointed to
2 the Council. That should be sent to the Federal
3 Subsistence Board. Our address is in here somewhere.

4

5 MR. O'HARA: I can find that one.

6

7 MR. EDENSHAW: Go ahead and you could do
8 that.

9

10 MR. O'HARA: Because I know Alvin has
11 applied to be on the Board again.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You mentioned BBNA as
14 the source to make a recommendation to the Federal Board
15 on the appointment or whoever that committee is. I guess
16 it would be a committee making recommendations to the
17 Board. It could be the councils from down in that region
18 or those type of people who would make a recommendation
19 of who they would think would be the best for their
20 region. Would that work?

21

22 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes. That's what they've
23 done in the past. That's what I've received in the past
24 from BBNA, is a list of recommended candidates they would
25 like to see appointed to the Council and that was sent to
26 the Board.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Regional Councils or
29 your city government or whoever those agencies are. Some
30 communities down in the peninsula are no longer
31 associated with BBNA, so they don't have that connection,
32 but it doesn't necessarily mean that BBNA would not be
33 interested in helping them out on what might be the best
34 representation for that area on the RAC. Any other
35 questions?

36

37 MR. O'HARA: No.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert.

40

41 MR. HEYANO: Two, Mr. Chairman. On
42 federal land, can't you require the air taxi operators to
43 do some type of reporting system as to how many people
44 and where they drop them off just for using federal land?

45

46 MR. O'HARA: We're working on that.
47 Becky Brock, our concession specialist, is working up
48 language to put into the contracts and the business
49 permits that they receive to be able to get back
50 information from them. We're still trying to figure out

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1 who's working the areas. She's working very hard at
2 getting us numbers, so we will be able to find out those
3 numbers. We have limited party sizes going in, so now
4 it's just geographical areas that some of our subsistence
5 users are concerned about that we're trying to figure out
6 what's legal and what we can do.

7

8 MR. HEYANO: One more. The conflicts on
9 the moose, I thought we actually separated seasons so the
10 federally-qualified subsistence users has a portion of
11 the season where they're the only people out harvesting
12 moose.

13

14 MR. O'HARA: The conflict that has been
15 explained to me is that their season is early. They have
16 a designated season where they're the only ones allowed,
17 but it's too early. You know, the moose haven't gotten
18 out of the hills and down toward the coast where they
19 hunt with the boats. So, by the time the moose get
20 there, the sport hunt season is also open. And they're
21 not sure how to deal with that because they can't push
22 the sport season back because that will put it into the
23 rut and they can't go any earlier because that wouldn't
24 do any good. They're brainstorming.

25

26 MR. HEYANO: Another comment. I think
27 your idea of the map is excellent. I can remember in the
28 early days we spent considerable time discussing an issue
29 and trying to develop a regulation and find out it was
30 all on state lands. It will be very helpful.

31

32 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Ron Squibb and I and
33 many others have spent many, many hours trying to figure
34 out whose land is actually whose and what applies. It's
35 very confusing.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions,
38 Council members? Tom, one more. You know, the conflict
39 between the guided hunts where you have guides who are
40 established in an area, Butch King and Mel down there at
41 Wild Man down at Little Sandy. Then you've got Pumis.
42 Pumis gets real close to Ugashik as far as what they do
43 on a lake. We thought about resident zones, try to make
44 this area only for the people on federal lands, qualified
45 subsistence users. We thought about right away that they
46 can't go very far with their equipment and the Pumis guys
47 have got float planes and all kinds of equipment to go
48 everywhere. You get into the Meshik area and the
49 overlapping between the guides and the resident hunters,
50 with guys coming in from Chignik and running up there and

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1 having a big fight with the guides on the Meshik.

2

3 I guess it goes back to Robert's question
4 of that conflict we have there with those guys. We
5 really do some real serious brainstorming to try to
6 somehow accommodate the guides who have more mobility and
7 better equipment. The same thing in Lake Clark. The
8 guys from Nondalton have an 18-foot Lund and they can
9 only go within a mile or so of where the animals might be
10 by boat. It's the same old problem we always have of
11 that kind of a conflict. I don't have a clue on how
12 we're going to handle that. You've got the same thing in
13 Egegik, Becharof Lake, where you've got guided hunts and
14 people trying to get animals and, you know, that
15 complicates things. Yes.

16

17 MS. KELLY: One of the things Egegik
18 worked out with the refuge is in the island arm area that
19 only a certain number of drop-offs can be dropped off for
20 a certain period of time.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that solved that
23 conflict. Thanks, Tom. Appreciate it. We don't have
24 the Bureau of Land Management here, so Alaska Department
25 of Fish & Game. We'd like to have you come up if you
26 would. You could come up one at a time and do your
27 reports. I know Sellers said he didn't have very much to
28 say, but we have a lot to say to him. So Alaska
29 Department of Fish & Game, if we could have you come up
30 to the table and give us your report if you would,
31 please. Oh, Joseph? You're the man who handles that?
32 Okay.

33

34 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Mr. Chair, I just thought
35 I'd give us a little status of where the Board of Fish,
36 Board of Game are for this area. As you know, we're off
37 schedule with the Board of Fish. However, this year
38 Kodiak and Chignik issues were before the Board and they
39 adopted a historical co-op concept for the Chignik
40 fishery that I guess fisheries throughout the state of
41 Alaska are going to be watching.

42

43 As far as the Board of Game schedule, the
44 next call for proposals for our area or region will be
45 October this coming fall. I don't have the schedule of
46 the meeting, but generally the meeting that covers
47 Bristol Bay I think takes place either in the winter or
48 the spring meeting that the call goes out for. Then the
49 next call for Board of Fish proposals for Bristol Bay
50 will, of course, be 2003 April.

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1 Just an update on the Joint Board, this
2 year the Joint Board Fish & Game, Board of Fish, Board of
3 Game, I guess, responded to the public about revisiting
4 the Advisory Committee system and re-evaluate the system
5 and they have formed a task force, six members from the
6 Board of Game side, six members from the Board of Fish
7 side, and they've chosen people from different areas.
8 From our region, the Board of Fish chose Robert Heyano to
9 represent the Board of Fish aspect, and then the Board of
10 Game chose Randy Alvarez to kind of oversee the Board of
11 Game aspect of the Advisory Committee system.

12
13 I guess the task force first tentative
14 meeting is scheduled for April 6th. The task force's job
15 is going to study to see if there's any changes that need
16 to be recommended to the Joint Board for proposals.
17 Sometime, I think the later part of April, the Joint
18 Board plans to have a meeting as a result of if any
19 recommendations come out and probably the two main
20 options is leave the system as it is or, if there's
21 changes that need to be made, either minor or major.
22 After the Joint Board meets and decides if there's need
23 for proposals, they will put a call for proposals
24 probably this coming fall and the Joint Board will meet
25 again in April 2003 to respond to any changes for
26 proposals to revamp the Advisory Committee system.
27 That's all I wanted to mention. Kind of give you guys a
28 heads-up that there is, you know, I guess some people
29 concerned about the Advisory Committee as it is. It's
30 been in place for many years and I'm sure that there are
31 some changes that need to be made. That's all I have.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, do you
34 have any questions of Joe? Joe, before you go, why are
35 they tinkering with the Advisory Committees, which a lot
36 of us have sat on? I sat on for 20 years over in Naknek
37 and really enjoyed the time and a lot of good, productive
38 things came out of it. Why is the State of Alaska taking
39 something that doesn't need to be corrected and dealing
40 with it? Are they out of money or is the political
41 structure changing or what's happening?

42
43 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Mr. Chair, I think part
44 of the problem is, you know, the budget has been cut down
45 so far. As far as our region this year -- well, all over
46 the state. We had a directive from our executive
47 director to hold Advisory Committee meetings down to one
48 meeting and the present regulations state that in order
49 for the Advisory Committee to be determined active, they
50 need to have two meetings per year.

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's what we have.
2 We have to have two meetings a year in order to survive.

3
4 MR. CHYTHLOOK: And because our budget
5 has been cut down -- back when I first took the job in
6 '88, our budget overall with the Regional Council that
7 was in place back then, you know, was like 700,000, but
8 now the Advisory Committee portion of the budget has been
9 chopped down to 50,000 for travel and whatnot. That's
10 probably part of the reasoning. Money is part of the
11 problem.

12
13 And then another, I guess, is some people
14 who attend Board of Fish, Board of Game meetings that
15 don't live in villages or areas where Advisory Committees
16 are, primarily folks that utilize resources from out of
17 state and different parts of the state, have complained
18 to the two Boards and say that they don't have input into
19 the present system, so that's probably another reason why
20 the Joint Boards or both Boards have decided to take on
21 this task force idea and see if they could improve it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Joe, even with the
24 cutback in money and the time of meetings, does the chair
25 still get to go to the Fish Board and Game Board and sit
26 there and give advice when they act on a proposal?

27
28 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: At least that's a plus.

31
32 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, the chair still is
33 afforded the opportunity. However, on the Board of Fish
34 side, in particular the last couple years, probably for
35 two or three cycles now, the Board has adopted a
36 committee process where they appoint two members from
37 each board to respond to proposals that address a certain
38 subject coming before the board and the charge to the two
39 members is to meet with the folks that are there,
40 Advisory Committee members and different interest groups
41 and user groups and come up with a consensus if they can
42 on proposals before they deliberate on them and I think
43 that has helped the process.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It sped it up a lot.

46
47 MR. CHYTHLOOK: However, some Advisory
48 Committee folks feel it also has watered down the
49 effectiveness of the Advisory Committee system. Where
50 they sometimes might have consensus on an Advisory

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1 Committee level on a proposal, when they get to the Board
2 of Fish committee process, because some folks that
3 weren't there to attend an Advisory Committee meeting
4 have a voice and if they speak loud enough, they can
5 change the vote and recommendation to the Board on a
6 specific proposal. So that's what's happening today with
7 the Board process.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Joe. We
10 appreciate that. Other Alaska Department of Fish & Game
11 reports. Excuse me, Robert. I'm sorry.

12

13 MR. HEYANO: Just for information, Mr.
14 Chairman, my understanding it will be a one-day meeting
15 on April 6th. They are going to be providing some
16 information, I guess, in the mail coming shortly and I
17 think Joe is going to try for the Bristol Bay area, at
18 least do a teleconference with maybe the chair and the
19 vice-chairs of the Advisory Committees once they receive
20 the information. So maybe we can discuss either some
21 changes or if we want to leave it alone. But that's just
22 for your information.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else Council
25 members? Thanks, Joe. Who else is going to be -- Dan,
26 you're up next?

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Chairman. I'm
29 Dan Dunaway with Fish & Game Sport Fish and I've got a
30 pile of paper here, but most of it's for later reading.
31 The first thing I wanted to make sure everybody saw
32 copies of here are our joint commercial and sport news
33 release regarding Kvichak sockeye management. As was
34 mentioned earlier, we're looking at one of the worst pre-
35 season forecasts in a long time. Commercial fish and
36 sport fish have got together and this news release
37 describes how we plan to manage for the season.

38

39 Rather than go through it, I'll just
40 highlight it. In the sport fishery, we'll expect to be
41 reducing the bag limit to two and closing some of the
42 sensitive subsistence areas that have been identified in
43 the Kvichak In-river Management Plan. Places around
44 Nondalton, Lexi Creek Gibraltar River, Iguigig. Then
45 we'll be monitoring in-season very closely if additional
46 restrictions are necessary.

47

48 The other thing I wanted to give you a
49 really brief update on is the Alagnak creel survey that
50 the Office of Subsistence Management funded. We had a

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1 good program last summer. We're in the final stages of a
2 draft report on the first season. That's a two-year
3 project. We'll plan to do it again this next summer.
4 We're going to have a rough draft of the first season
5 done here. We'll probably submit it to Anchorage next
6 week for a review by our biometric staff.

7
8 A couple of highlights. We estimated a
9 catch of king salmon of about 1,500 fish and a harvest of
10 about 500. Coho salmon, a catch of about 662 and
11 extrapolated harvest of about 270. Chum salmon,
12 estimated catch of 13,800 and a harvest of about 600.
13 This is from an estimated 1,469 angler trips. We're
14 going to be looking at this information and we may
15 slightly alter some of the work we do for the coming
16 season to get more information and we'll be in
17 consultation with Steve Fried on that in the next month.

18
19 The other project we plan to do this
20 summer is not funded by the OSM, but it's going to be
21 investigating a feasibility study to investigate the
22 abundance of king salmon in the Naknek River. That's a
23 relatively small population. There's a lot of sport
24 interest and effort on it. We feel that's one of our
25 priorities at this point. We'll do a feasibility study
26 to look at capture techniques and tagging techniques.
27 We'll be trying to coordinate with Jim Larson's Big Creek
28 weir to see if that would work as a recapture place. The
29 hope is then, in the following year, we'll do a full-
30 scale study to get a better handle on abundance.

31
32 Other items I have here to share with
33 folks are pre-season outlook and there's a bunch of other
34 information there, too. Pass them around. If I don't
35 have enough here, give us a call. We have them at the
36 office. It outlines what we expect to see around the
37 bay, how we plan to operate. Some brief mentions of
38 projects and there's some supporting information in the
39 back, website information and such.

40
41 The other thing I'd like to call your
42 attention to is a couple activities going on within Sport
43 Fish Division. We have two things. There's a strategic
44 planning in wild trout initiative. The Division wants to
45 be more effective, more accountable to all public and
46 we're kind of going through an internal review of how we
47 can do a better job. This handout includes copies of
48 websites. We've boiled it down to about four goals and
49 then within each goal a number of outcomes of what we're
50 looking for and also places that shows where you can

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1 contact our coordinators on this if you want to give
2 input. We're very eager for public input from all people
3 because we want to do a better job. The details are in
4 here.

5
6 And the wild trout initiative has become
7 the wild rainbow trout and steelhead initiative. This
8 one, too, is something we encourage public input on it.
9 It started out as an important interest to the governor.
10 He's asked us to work on gathering information. He wants
11 to ensure sustainability of this resource. There's a six-
12 element paragraph on page 1 of that last handout I gave
13 out of points some focus groups have come up with that
14 they want the Department to manage for. Again, public
15 input from all aspects is pretty important. There's a
16 pretty extensive website on it. If you don't have access
17 to that, give me a call and I'll get more information.
18

19 This one kind of started out in a little
20 unusual track compared to our familiar process. I think
21 it's eventually going to show up to advisory committees
22 in other user groups. Again, I just wanted to say that
23 the door is open to comment and put public light on those
24 activities. That's really all I have.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council
27 members of Dan? I guess Slim would have to answer the
28 question on how he reduces the amount of salmon caught in
29 the Naknek River in relationship to the kings going up
30 there. I guess mesh size is one method that he uses.
31 The early season, of course, is when the kings are coming
32 up and then they're pretty heavy on the 4th of July. So,
33 have you and Slim talked about that at all?

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, we've been talking
36 quite a bit and I'll try to paraphrase. In the past, for
37 the in-river fishery, he's been trying to avoid fishing
38 through the lowest portion of the low tide. It did seem
39 to be real effective last year. I was really concerned.
40 But he did, before the Board a year ago, express that he
41 was going to do his utmost to manage the commercial
42 fishery in a manner that it wouldn't impact other species
43 or the spawning quality of sockeye salmon. I believe he
44 tries not to fish below the 15-foot tide level. I think
45 I've got that right. So there's little windows of fish
46 to go through and he's going to continue to do that. I
47 think we have a lower forecast for Naknek River sockeye
48 this year, so he may not have to fish as intensively in-
49 river this year, which may also provide some protection.
50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, you had a
2 question.

3
4 MR. HEYANO: A couple of questions, Mr.
5 Chairman. Dan, when this land or this initiative becomes
6 a plan, then the Board of Fish will look at the Southwest
7 Rainbow Trout Management Plan and change it as this
8 document would indicate the changes that need to be done?

9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: It's possible. I haven't
11 been very closely involved with this initiative, so I'm a
12 little sketchy on it myself. There have been some reports
13 to the Board of Fish already and they've offered some
14 comments. If they carry through with some of the goals,
15 I've heard talk about making the background regulation
16 for all rainbow trout fisheries be catch and release only
17 and then have to make regulations allowing harvest in
18 some waters. I don't know that that's going to be done.
19 That's one perspective and one idea. It would make a lot
20 of work for the Board of Fish and I've also heard
21 comments that because of that it might upset the balance
22 too much. But there could be changes to the plan or,
23 more likely, as the rest of the state is looking to the
24 Southwest Plan and there's another one somewhere else in
25 the state and copying what they think is good out of
26 those plans to other parts of the state is my
27 understanding.

28
29 MR. HEYANO: Cook Inlet, I believe, has
30 the other rainbow trout management plan. I guess that's
31 a concern I have, is I could never follow what this
32 initiative, when it's completed, how it's going to impact
33 the Southwest Alaska Rainbow Trout Management Plan. I'm
34 assuming that whatever comes out of this plan is going to
35 be the governing document and then the two plans that are
36 in existence they would have to be gone through to
37 conform to whatever this initiative final stages is.

38
39 The concern I have is, if you look at the
40 Southwest Alaska Rainbow Trout Management Plan and for
41 probably the first two or three pages it emphasizes how
42 important it is to involve all segments of the public,
43 including the people in the local area. This initiative,
44 to me, is completely the opposite. They had meetings in
45 the urban areas and very little in the rural areas and
46 that raises a concern. It's my opinion, as you go
47 through these goals and outcomes, it never once mentions
48 the impact or the conflict the sport fishing industry has
49 on the rural residents or the subsistence activities. I
50 think that's a very, very important part of this.

00219

1 There's been some areas where they actually displaced a
2 subsistence user. I think that's a result of where the
3 meetings were being held.

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: If I may, Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure. Go ahead.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: A couple things. The goals
10 and the outcomes that you see in this handout are
11 relative more to the Sportfish Division Strategic Plan.
12 That's separate. I've put two things together in this
13 handout. Unfortunately, I see I've reversed the order
14 from the cover letter in front. Within the goals and
15 outcomes in the Sportfish Strategic Plan, there's a
16 portion under informed involved public. Real quick, I
17 don't know how the Sportfish Division operates, how they
18 would address that issue, but that is an important part
19 they'll have to keep in mind.

20

21 Under the Rainbow Trout Initiative, yes,
22 there have not been -- there was not a public meeting in
23 Bush, Alaska. I think before this goes real far there
24 will be more concrete material provided to advisory
25 committees. I know the concern has been thoroughly
26 expressed to folks involved with the Rainbow Trout
27 Initiative that it's taken kind of an unusual course.
28 Typically proposals are submitted and the public and
29 advisory committees review them and it filters up to the
30 board from that direction. That's partly why I'm making
31 an effort to put this out in the light of day here. That
32 concern has been voiced to me a lot and I've passed it on
33 to my supervisors.

34

35 Under the strategic planning, that's more
36 of an internal of how we do business, but it's important
37 to get public comment to know what the public wants.
38 That doesn't have a set process on how to operate, but
39 that's why we are, again, soliciting public comment on
40 it.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?
43 Pete.

44

45 MR. ABRAHAM: I noticed in Togiak River
46 king salmon outlook over here is going to be similar to
47 last year, but I never see any funding or study at Osviak
48 and Kulukak. Osviak is one of the bigger king salmon
49 areas in the spring time and that's where the Togiak
50 people go for down there. Has there been any study in

00220

1 Osviak or in the other rivers for funding?

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Kulukak had some funding, I
4 believe, through the King Salmon Fisheries Resource
5 Office some years ago and they had a tower. I believe
6 also between Fish & Game and the Togiak Refuge they
7 combined forces to fly aerial surveys of a lot of streams
8 and I believe Togiak Refuge has done some inventory work
9 on Osviak. Since we don't have a particularly large
10 sport fishery in those rivers, I haven't proposed any
11 studies on those. We watched what was done on the
12 Kulukak very closely and were in close communication with
13 Jim Larson when those were done and I continue to stay in
14 close contact with the Togiak Refuge staff who look at
15 those waters. For sport fish, there's not enough
16 activity there to make it a priority for me.

17

18 MR. ABRAHAM: I think there will be more
19 sport fishing down in Osviak. I noticed last fall a
20 couple airplanes when I was berry picking. I believe
21 they were sports people. The reason why I asked the
22 question is because I never see a report on those three
23 rivers before.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: You might talk to Togiak
26 Refuge because I know they were doing some inventory work
27 in the mid-'90s. I believe, again, aerial escapement
28 surveys are done. I don't know if every year, but
29 Kulukak probably every year. I don't know about Osviak.
30 We probably have a little bit of sport fishing
31 information that may appear in our annual statewide mail-
32 out survey. It's probably not consistent enough fishing
33 down there for that survey to see the Osviak especially.
34 We do see the Kulukak show up in our annual survey
35 because it's a sub-sample of all the license holders that
36 bought licenses in Alaska. We mail out a questionnaire.
37 If there's only 100 people that went to the Kulukak, the
38 probability of them being sampled is pretty low.

39

40 MR. ABRAHAM: I don't know about Osviak
41 really because they're a lot more richer than Togiak, so
42 they might be passing toward Kuskokwim. I don't know.
43 They're, like I say, a lot more richer, so they might not
44 be kings.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, I see what you mean.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comments?

49 Yes, Shirley.

50

00221

1 MS. KELLY: I just want to know how do we
2 convey our comments on this rainbow trout initiative.

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. On that first cover
5 page I have listed web page addresses for both strategic
6 planning and the wild rainbow trout initiative. If you
7 have web access, you click into these addresses and it
8 says please provide your comments here and you can do it
9 that way or I've provided a couple e-mail addresses. If
10 you want to go directly to a person, you can compose a
11 letter and send it to those folks. I've also provided
12 phone numbers and names and mailing addresses for people
13 that are more directly involved with those two programs
14 or contact me and I'll help any way I can to get
15 information.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Go ahead.

18
19 MS. KELLY: How is the department getting
20 this information out to the general public?

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: This is one way, right?
23 That's what I'm doing.

24
25 MS. KELLY: I know, but I mean this
26 isn't.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We don't represent a
29 very big part of the public.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll probably hand out this
32 exact same thing to local advisory committee members. I
33 believe it's gotten some press time. I think it's
34 cropping up in the newspapers. The Board is being
35 briefed on it and it's being publicized to other advisory
36 committees and fishing groups. The wild trout initiative
37 I expect came out of public contacts to the governor from
38 avid rainbow trout anglers that want to protect rainbow
39 trout.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's a group of
42 people that's getting the information, but Bristol Bay
43 Times, I guess maybe your supervisor doesn't want you to
44 write an article about that in there.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: I think I could provide
47 something to them. Maybe I should.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That would hit a big
50 population of Bristol Bay because that paper goes

00222

1 everywhere.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll suggest that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Or do an interview on
6 KDLG. We all listen KDLG. Do it at a time when
7 everything else is boring and you've got some blazing
8 thing to say to us and here we go.

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: That's a good idea. I'll
11 contact these folks involved.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We sit here and hear
14 this. We've never heard this before. There's so much of
15 the population that doesn't get it. Any other questions,
16 Council members? Okay. Thank you. How about the Game
17 people? Are you ready to come talk to us? We'd like to
18 have both of you up here. We want both of you here.
19 Which one of you want to go first?

20

21 MR. SELLERS: Well, I only have one piece
22 of business that I'd like the Council to consider and
23 that's the cow moose hunt from the Alagnak drainage. I
24 don't know if you want to tackle that at this time.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'd love to have a
27 report on it and maybe a recommendation from you.

28

29 MR. SELLERS: You'll see on the second
30 page of this handout there's a map of southwestern Alaska
31 with two small areas shaded in. Those are the only two
32 cow moose hunts anywhere in southwest Alaska with the
33 exception of a small area around Lime Village. One of
34 the two hunts is a federal only hunt in Big Creek by
35 registration permit and then the northern larger shaded
36 area is the Alagnak drainage, which has both a state and
37 a federal cow hunt during the winter.

38

39 Every cow hunt in the state of Alaska,
40 state-managed cow hunt, has to be reviewed and
41 reauthorized every year. The reauthorization steps,
42 which were set by the legislature and state law, require
43 two things to have that reauthorization occur. It has to
44 first have the approval of the local advisory committees
45 in the affected area and, second, it has to have
46 endorsement by the Department of Fish & Game. Without
47 either one of those, the cow hunt cannot continue.

48

49 The first page represents the staff
50 analysis and recommendation on a proposal that the Board

00223

1 of Game will address next week. It pretty much spells
2 out the rationale on why we will not be able to support
3 continuation of the cow hunt in the Alagnak drainage.
4 Over the course of the last 20 years, we've been forced
5 to withdraw support for a number of cow hunts in Unit 9
6 and every one of our actions have been predicated on the
7 fact that survey data has indicated that those
8 populations of moose have become so unproductive in terms
9 of calf survival that continued harvest of cows will not
10 contribute to our management objectives, which
11 traditionally have been to at least maintain the existing
12 number of moose in a given area.

13

14 As you'll see on the third page, a graph
15 of our survey data. The reason that the Alagnak drainage
16 cow hunt has been maintained while all the others were
17 dropped incrementally is that the bottom line there,
18 which is the number of calves per 100 cows has generally
19 been in the range of 20 to 30 calves per 100 cows, which
20 is adequate to sustain a population. The last three
21 surveys we did, '99, 2000 and this past year, the
22 calf/cow ratio has dropped to an average of only five
23 calves per 100 cows. That's the primary reason why we
24 feel at this time it's not good biology to continue
25 harvesting any cows there.

26

27 The reason that I'm kind of late coming
28 to you is that I had wanted to delay this decision as
29 long as it was possible and I kind of held out a little
30 bit of hope that we might see a bounce back in calf
31 production after the extremely mild winter we had last
32 year. That obviously didn't happen. The bottom line is
33 that we will not support cow hunting there, which is kind
34 of one bullet in the continuation.

35

36 Secondly, at the last Naknek/Kvichak
37 Advisory Committee, they decided not to pass a motion to
38 support it, which is consistently done very
39 overwhelmingly. It's a popular hunt. Just the fact that
40 they didn't go on record as supporting it is kind of the
41 second bullet. The state hunt undoubtedly will be closed
42 and will probably stay closed until we see some level of
43 major improvement in calf survival, back up above
44 probably 20 calves per 100 cows.

45

46 The reason I'm coming to the Council at
47 this time is that, as you'll see, there's also a federal
48 hunt in that same area and there are two issues there.
49 First of all, the dates for the federal hunt do not
50 coincide with the dates for the state winter hunt, as it

00224

1 will continue for bulls only. There's always been some
2 level of confusion, as Tom pointed out, with the land
3 ownership issue.

4

5 So the season dates are one thing and
6 then the other issue is whether the federal hunt will
7 continue to allow taking of cows. Obviously, my
8 recommendation would be to end the federal cow hunt in
9 that area also.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Living in the area, I
12 never think in terms of this is state land, this is
13 federal land for a cow hunt, so we appreciate that
14 information today. Cliff, why don't you talk to them.
15 How do we go about, as a Council, dealing with aligning
16 dates and looking at -- and your State Advisory Board,
17 Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee said no hunt.

18

19 MR. SELLERS: They didn't make any
20 motion, which is kind of a de facto act. Unless they're
21 on the record in support of it, that action in itself
22 would have eliminated it.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's interesting.

25

26 MR. SELLERS: It wasn't a popular issue.
27 Like I said, they're pretty enthusiastic about that
28 opportunity, but I think they realized, with the data we
29 have here, it's not feasible to continue.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any question of Dick
32 Sellers on this issue? Dick, I guess we're going to have
33 to make a recommendation at this meeting because -- well,
34 I guess we could wait until October when we meet again.
35 What's the steps here for us to deal with on this issue?

36

37 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, perhaps Ron
38 Squibb could help me on this, but we'll address wildlife
39 proposals towards the fall of this year. It will be in
40 October again when wildlife proposals are open. If
41 refuge lands allow cows to be taken, then the Council
42 could submit a special action, a one-time deal, to close
43 that.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're not talking about
46 Ron's area. We're talking about -- well, you're talking
47 about Ron's area, too, on the refuge, huh?

48

49 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes. It's down in Unit 9.

50

00225

1 MR. SELLERS: I'm not making any
2 proposals about the Big Creek hunt here.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No. We're talking
5 about the branch, which does not include Ron. This is
6 Park Refuge and Park.....

7
8 MR. EDENSHAW: Oh, okay, up in the
9 Togiak.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Park and Preserve.

12
13 MR. EDENSHAW: Park and Preserve.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's the direct
16 responsibility
17 of this group to determine that. Now, if we were to act
18 on this in October, would we act in time to be able to
19 prevent a December-January hunt? When does the Federal
20 Board meet again?

21
22 MR. EDENSHAW: They'll meet in May. To
23 address for 2003 wildlife proposals, they'll meet in May.
24 But the Council can submit a special action to close. If
25 the Federal hunt does allow taking of cows, then they can
26 submit a special action to request that that be closed.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Does that have to be in
29 this meeting or can we do this at a later date?

30
31 MR. EDENSHAW: We can do it at a later
32 date.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We should get some
35 direction from the Council on this now though. I
36 guarantee I'd be in favor of closing it down if we're
37 down to that small amount of calf survival. Yes.

38
39 MR. HEYANO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 Based on the information, I don't see any reason to wait.
41 Based on the information, I think that we can't afford
42 another cow season in this area and I'd be willing to do
43 this through a special action to the Federal Subsistence
44 Board and also draft a letter to the -- I don't know if
45 it needs to go to the state board or if Mr. Sellers has
46 the authority to close it. It looks to me like we can't
47 afford another hunt of cow moose on state or federal land
48 in this particular area.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

00226

1 MR. SELLERS: Mr. Chair, I guess I'd
2 never try to predict what the Board of Game will do,
3 except that in this case, because by state statute there
4 are two things that have to happen before the Board has
5 the authority to reauthorize it. The advisory committee
6 support and the department support. Since neither of
7 those are forthcoming, the Board of Game legally cannot
8 reauthorize the season.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think we should go
11 ahead and begin the process of eliminating this hunt in
12 this area. We advise the Federal Board to preserve that
13 resource for the purpose of subsistence and if you're
14 going to kill off the resource, then we're not doing our
15 job is the way I see it. The longer you sit here, the
16 hungrier you'll get. We're not going to go anywhere
17 until we get some action. What's the recommendation of
18 the Council?

19
20 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

23
24 MR. HEYANO: I'm looking for wording on a
25 motion. Would the motion, Dick, read that we direct the
26 staff to draw up a special action proposal for us that
27 would not reauthorize the antlerless moose season in that
28 portion of Unit 9C outside of the Naknek River drainage?
29 Would that do it?

30
31 MR. SELLERS: I think under your
32 regulations it's called the remainder of 9C. The second
33 issue is, at this point, if you want to recommend it,
34 alignment of the season dates for the remaining bull hunt
35 that would occur there. That's not an emergency problem,
36 but it does cause a fair amount of confusion.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that's very
39 confusing.

40
41 MR. SELLERS: I might add that the reason
42 the state season is set back by two weeks, there were two
43 rationales. One was that quite typically, early in
44 December travel conditions are so poor that people can't
45 get to the Alagnak drainage, especially by snowmachine.
46 The second rationale was that at least in 9B there was
47 concern about a growing effort by air taxis to drop off
48 non-local trophy moose hunters. Of course, later in
49 December, you get the fewer mature bulls will have both
50 antlers. So the Iliamna Advisory Committee in '99

00227

1 proposed to the State Board to delay the winter hunt.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: To what dates?

4

5 MR. SELLERS: December 15th to January

6 15th.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that's a state.....

9

10 MR. SELLERS: That's a state season.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So that's more
13 favorable to the local hunt. I don't see why we couldn't
14 endorse that. It would certainly make the enforcement of
15 the whole issue a lot easier. Are you getting closer to
16 your motion?

17

18 MR. HEYANO: Yes, I am, Mr. Chairman. It
19 would be my preference to deal with the conservation of
20 the resource in one motion as a special action and not
21 tie the hunting seasons together to confuse the issue. I
22 don't think anybody has any leeway to not allow that hunt
23 to take for the protection of the resource.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

26

27 MR. HEYANO: I'm not so concerned, I
28 guess, or convinced that we need to ask the Federal
29 Subsistence Board at this time to change the hunting
30 seasons on the special action. I think we'll be
31 confusing the magnitude of the problem we're trying to
32 get them to address. Not that I disagree that those
33 seasons should be aligned, but I think we can do that in
34 the regular regulatory cycle.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So you're
37 looking for a closure of the cow antlerless season in 9C
38 on federal lands. Is that what you're looking for? Is
39 that your motion?

40

41 MR. SELLERS: I guess it's a little
42 confusing because if you say eliminate antlerless, that
43 would make an antlerless bull illegal. I would say
44 eliminate the taking of female or cow moose.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We can figure that out.
47 So what are your wishes there, Mr. Heyano?

48

49 MR. HEYANO: Now I'm confused.

50

00228

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, you're not
2 confused. We want to.....

3
4 MR. HEYANO: What motion would I need to
5 have Mr. Sellers close the cow moose season in the
6 winter?

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Some wording is what we
9 want.

10
11 MR. HEYANO: Give me the wording.

12
13 MR. SELLERS: A motion to recommend to
14 the Federal Subsistence Board that the winter hunt in the
15 remainder 9C is for bulls only.

16
17 MR. HEYANO: That's my motion.

18
19 MS. KELLY: Second.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there any confusion
22 on the motion? Did you want to address your motion any
23 further?

24
25 MR. HEYANO: I think, Mr. Chairman, the
26 information that we're provided does not leave us any
27 other opportunity. Our first charge is to protect the
28 resource. It's not only a one-year trend, it's actually
29 a three-year trend. Five calves per 100 cows just
30 doesn't cut it to protect the resource.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We know there's a
33 tremendous wolf population in the area. We know that the
34 bears have increased. None of this aides to helping calf
35 survival rate.

36
37 MR. SELLERS: I think our intent here is
38 to have the Federal Subsistence Board look at this as a
39 special action.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: If there's no further
42 comment, call for the question.

43
44 MR. HEYANO: Question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor say
47 aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

00229

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else,

6 Dick?

7

8 MR. SELLERS: That's all the business. I

9 don't know if you want to address any other wildlife

10 issues out there. Ron covered a good deal of what's

11 going on at least on the Peninsula.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, he did. How many

14 animals do you have on the Peninsula?

15

16 MR. SELLERS: The Northern Peninsula

17 caribou herd was estimated at 6,000 last year. I guess

18 there was some glimmer of good news in terms of both

19 animal condition. We caught 22, I believe it was, female

20 calves last April and their weights were up

21 significantly. The highest weights we've had since we've

22 started working with calves in 1997. That's encouraging,

23 although that probably or may well be related more to the

24 easy winter that they had coming through last year rather

25 than a general improvement in habitat conditions. We'll

26 have to wait and see what the weights do in the future,

27 but at least that's encouraging. And then also the

28 calf/cow ratio last fall jumped from 18 calves per 100

29 cows to 28 calves per 100 cows, which is a pretty major

30 shift. Again, that may be related to the previous winter

31 where pregnant cows came through the winter in better

32 condition and, thus, had better calf survival during last

33 summer.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Have you been looking

36 at -- and that's what I wanted to have you tell the

37 Council, that at least that's a glimmer of hope, that the

38 calf survival rate has been a little better. How are

39 those animals doing north of the Naknek River? I know

40 you've got them pretty well protected and enforcement is

41 out there every day. Are they mingling with the

42 Mulchatna herd?

43

44 MR. SELLERS: Yeah. That season closed.

45 The Naknek drainage to Tier 2 hunt as of the end of

46 February, so there were quite a few caribou there. It

47 was pretty hard to tell how many were Mulchatna versus

48 how many were Peninsula. I counted three days ago just

49 from a snowmachine about 1,200 caribou right along the

50 Lake Camp Road. I guess the problem was this fall we had

00230

1 some movement of Peninsula animals across the Naknek
2 River before there was snow cover and it was hard to
3 really get a good handle on how many came across. I had
4 the impression that it was somewhere around 500, but
5 that's just kind of a ballpark feeling rather than any
6 hard data. We do know that there was several thousand
7 Mulchatna animals that spent the whole winter between the
8 Naknek and up to the Alagnak River. I'm sure some of
9 those are mixed in with a group that's right around town
10 now.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do they walk in two
13 different directions come time to going.....

14

15 MR. SELLERS: Yeah, I expect they will.
16 We flew up the river when we came over yesterday and it
17 didn't look like any of them had made a big move south of
18 the river, so it's hard to say what's going to transpire.
19 There's always been this concern or idea that maybe part
20 of the reason for the decline of the Peninsula herd was
21 that large numbers of caribou joined up with the
22 Mulchatna. We don't have any direct evidence of that.
23 We have done some genetic work all through the
24 Southwestern caribou herds. Actually, there's less
25 genetic distinction between the Mulchatna and the
26 Northern Peninsula herds than there are between other
27 Southwestern herds, which suggests that at least in the
28 past there was more mingling of those herds during the
29 breeding season.

30

31 As far as we know, there's still a
32 distinction they separate out for the calving season,
33 which is what the basis of the herd definition is.
34 Again, we don't have any direct evidence that the cause
35 of the decline was animals shifting allegiance and
36 there's enough evidence from higher mortality rates and
37 lower reproductive rates to explain the herd's decline
38 and that's basically the simplest and I believe the
39 correct interpretation of what happened.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The coffee shop talk
42 is, oh, yeah, I saw the North Peninsula herd went right
43 over to Nushagak and that's the answer and I just shake
44 my head saying I wish it were that simple because we
45 don't know that. Any other questions of Sellers? We'll
46 switch over to the Mulchatna.

47

48 MR. SANDS: Mr. Chair, I don't have any
49 specific report to give to you, but if you have any
50 questions or whatever, I'll see what I can do.

00231

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The reason I wanted you
2 to come up and talk with us a little bit is I was kind of
3 wondering if you have a number on what the Mulchatna herd
4 was at now. The upper number was what? Are we declining
5 a little bit now or can you tell that yet?

6
7 MR. SANDS: We feel that the peak of the
8 Mulchatna herd was about 200,000 caribou in the summer of
9 1996 when the photo estimate was done. I did another
10 photo estimate in the summer of '99 and that number was
11 175,000. Based on the fall cow/calf ratios and some
12 limited information on spring calving, we're probably
13 still in a slight decline. It's not a roller-coaster
14 going downhill by any means.

15
16 One of the things I think we need to keep
17 in mind with the Mulchatna herd is the huge amount or the
18 huge range that the herd covers throughout the year now.
19 When the herd was smaller back in the '80s or early '90s,
20 I think it was about 80 or 90,000 caribou in 1990 or 1991
21 and then it grew to 200,000 by '96, it used primarily the
22 eastern half of what its range is now. The Mulchatna
23 drainage, the Nushagak hills, over around Lake Clark and
24 Lake Iliamna in that area. Now we've got large numbers.
25 A large proportion of the Mulchatna herd is wintering
26 over south of the Kuskokwim in Unit 18. As Pete was
27 mentioning, there's caribou down at Cape Newenham now.
28 The Mulchatna herd increased at the rate of 17 percent a
29 year up through '96. During that time it just shot-
30 gunned and went everywhere. A couple years it went up to
31 McGrath.

32
33 Yeah, the herd had reached a large
34 number, larger than it had been in who knows how long.
35 Longer than we have records of it. And it's declined
36 since then. Because it has declined from the very peak
37 that we've ever seen, we still have more caribou than we
38 had in 1990.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What would be your cut-
41 off time, say when same day airborne hunting would take
42 place in relationship to the size of the herd? Have you
43 ever thought about that?

44
45 MR. SANDS: No, I haven't, but I think
46 one of the things to keep in mind is that most of the
47 herd is wintering over in Unit 18. That area is not open
48 to same day winter airborne hunting. It's only 9B, 17B
49 and 17C east of the Nushagak River is the area. The last
50 few years there haven't been all that many caribou from

00232

1 the herd accessible during the winter, but still enough
2 for the people who do want to go out and do a meat hunt
3 in the winter time. I don't think there's near as much
4 going on as there would be if a major portion of the herd
5 wintered over here.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The reason I wanted you
8 to come up and talk to us is that throughout the hunting
9 season in the fall time is from the local people and your
10 drop off hunters, a few air taxi guys that we know really
11 well, and it looks to me like -- or maybe what I hear.
12 It doesn't look to me at all because I've never seen it,
13 and I've seen a good percentage of your herd, flying the
14 Mulchatna and then they're migrated out here to the
15 Clark's Point area. I mean you'd have 100,000 animals
16 out there west of.....

17
18 MR. SANDS: Snipe Lake area.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I know which area
21 it is. Massive amount of animals, just incredible. Have
22 the sports hunters -- as a subsistence user, we take the
23 big bulls in the fall, too, because that's a lot of meat.
24 Have you had a problem or could you foresee -- in other
25 words, we don't want to come back here 10 years from now
26 with a Sellers story of we had 18,000 animals and now
27 we're down to six, so I think we need to look carefully
28 at are they taking too many bulls in relation to cow/bull
29 ratio or is that not a good question?

30
31 MR. SANDS: I think we have seen in the
32 last couple of years -- let me back up a second. In
33 October, right about the time of the rut in the first
34 week or 10 days of October, we go out and we do fall
35 composition surveys using helicopters. The last few
36 years we've had kind of a split in the herd in that some
37 of them -- part of the herd is over in the Unit 18 area
38 or up in the Kuskokwim Mountains and then another part of
39 the herd is over here somewhere in 17B or 17C, so we
40 actually go out and do composition counts on two
41 different portions of the herd.

42
43 We have seen in the last couple of years
44 lower bull/cow ratios in the caribou that we count over
45 on the east side than we do the ones over on the west
46 side in Unit 18 or the Kuskokwim Mountains. Overall
47 bull/cow ratios are still -- I think we're still in the
48 safe range. The state bag limit is five caribou. A few
49 years back was two bulls. You could get five caribou,
50 only two of which were bulls for the entire season. A

00233

1 few years ago that was changed to two bulls during the
2 October/November period only. Probably, I think it would
3 have been a better move, during the time of rapid growth,
4 to do whatever could be done to harvest more cows, during
5 that time when it was growing higher.

6
7 We're seeing a lot of increased harvest
8 on this caribou herd than we saw, say, in the early to
9 mid-'90s, but we're also seeing wider distribution of the
10 animals throughout the year. We have quite a bit of
11 hunting going on in what I'd call the eastern and middle
12 part of their range during the fall and then during the
13 winter time, with good travel conditions out in Bethel
14 and all the villages over there in Unit 18, if we have
15 good travel conditions, basically good snow conditions
16 for traveling with snowmachines, then they can access a
17 lot of caribou during the winter and spring, if they can
18 get out in January, but usually it's February, March,
19 that sort of thing.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You have a pretty big
22 interest also from the Cook Inlet area on same day
23 airborne to Lake Clark Pass, into the eastern part of
24 your herd. I know they're there. I hear them on the
25 air, they call me at home and want to know where the
26 animals are at and what the lake conditions are like.

27
28 MR. SANDS: I get calls every day also.
29 This winter, we've got some caribou down by the Kvichak
30 River there in 9B, but it seems like more of them down in
31 9C, which is not open to same day airborne.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. I think
34 that's about all that I had. These animals do cross
35 federal lands, too, right?

36
37 MR. SANDS: Yes.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there a percentage?

40
41 MR. SANDS: I have no way to determine
42 that. I mean it depends what day you're talking about.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Where they're
45 at.

46
47 MR. SANDS: One thing that is
48 interesting, I would like to point out, I spoke about
49 part of the herd wintering over, say 18 over in the
50 western part of the range and then some of them wintering

00234

1 in the eastern part and then during different times of
2 the year we've got about between 40 and 50 collars on.
3 But there's just total mixing. Caribou that might winter
4 over in the Iliamna Lake area one winter, the next winter
5 it might be over in Unit 18 and vice versa.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that a good thing?

8

9 MR. SANDS: Yes, I think so.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: As far as food goes and
12 range.

13

14 MR. SANDS: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, thank you. Any
17 questions, Council members, that you might have here?

18

19 MR. HEYANO: I was wondering if I can
20 request -- the state has some information and I observed
21 it at a Game Board many years ago. If you took all the
22 moose, caribou and sheep in Alaska, and I don't know how
23 they arrived at the information, but they had either a
24 bar graph or a pie chart on what the human harvest was
25 responsible percentage-wise and what predation was and I
26 think the other category was natural causes. Can you see
27 if that information is still available and provide that
28 to us?

29

30 MR. SANDS: I'll see what we can find.

31

32 MR. SELLERS: I can recall what you're
33 talking about. I don't know if that's been updated
34 lately, but it should be available.

35

36 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thanks, guys. We
39 appreciate you taking time. Mr. Sellers, we appreciate
40 you coming over from the east side to meet with us. I
41 don't know if they have an MOA at the Federal level, but
42 we've got one at the Bristol Bay level and we really
43 appreciate working with you guys on that, so thanks a
44 lot. We have one more report before we finish up with
45 our business here of the day and that's going to be Ted.

46

47 MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg, Subsistence
48 Division, Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Mr. Chairman
49 and Council Members, Ralph just said that I should be
50 brief so BBNA can get on. There's just the one main

00235

1 project that's coming up here that I wanted to let you
2 know about and it's what we're calling Western Bristol
3 Bay Large Land Mammal Subsistence Harvest Survey and it's
4 household surveys and mapping and large land mammals
5 refers to caribou, moose, brown bear, black bear and dall
6 sheep. Western Bristol Bay refers to Iliamna Lake, Lake
7 Clark, Nushigak River, Nushigak Bay, including Dillingham
8 and Togiak villages. It's 18 communities.

9

10 Davin Holen, who works with me here from
11 the Subsistence Division, he's out of Anchorage, he's
12 here today and we're preparing for this project. We were
13 meeting with BBNA and it is a cooperative project with
14 BBNA, but we're planning to start up in the Iliamna Lake
15 area March 25th. So just to alert you to that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Interesting.

18

19 MR. KRIEG: As you may remember, I guess
20 completed back like in '96-'97, we did large land mammals
21 for the Alaska Peninsula.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: BBNA?

24

25 MR. KRIEG: Correct, BBNA. So this will
26 cover the rest of Bristol Bay. There's three other
27 ongoing projects; the Manokotak, Togiak and Twin Hills
28 baseline harvest survey. The report is scheduled to be
29 done at the end of this month and then it will be
30 reviewed before the final draft. The TEK of Alaska
31 Peninsula, Becharof National Wildlife Refuge complex
32 communities, we did complete interviews in Egegik,
33 Ugashik, Pilot Point and Port Heiden and we still have
34 Chignik, Perryville and Ivanoff and that may be this
35 summer or next fall that we'll complete those. And then
36 the Togiak River Subsistence Harvest Monitoring Project.
37 We're working with BBNA, its Subsistence Division, Fish &
38 Wildlife Service and Togiak Traditional Council. That
39 will be going on again this summer.

40

41 The only other thing I was going to
42 mention, and I don't have the number of permits that were
43 issued, but the Bristol Bay subsistence salmon permit
44 system, of the permits that were issued, which I think
45 was around 1,200 for Bristol Bay, there's been an over 90
46 percent return on those and I don't have those exact
47 numbers with me.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
50 members? Ted, thanks for coming before us today.

00236

1 MR. KRIEG: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other State of
4 Alaska reports that need to come before us? I don't want
5 to leave anyone out here. Didn't mean to leave Ted out.
6 Okay, BBNA.

7

8 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I just want
9 to correct Ted. I asked him to keep it short so we could
10 go to lunch, not so much that I was anxious to come back
11 up here. With me is Hans Nicholson and Hans has a brief
12 project report to give.

13

14 MR. NICHOLSON: Actually, I was going to
15 read it. My name is Hans Nicholson. I work for BBNA as
16 a subsistence coordinator in the Natural Resource
17 Department. Ralph is the brains behind this department.
18 He points me off in whatever direction I need to go.
19 When he says jump, I ask how far.

20

21 There was a lot of discussion on a lot of
22 the projects that are going on, so I'm not going to
23 reiterate a lot of them. I'll just maybe talk about some
24 of the things that we didn't hear anything about and one
25 of those would be walrus on Round Island. You can
26 legally hunt subsistence walrus any time of the year, any
27 place in the state of Alaska, with the exception of Round
28 Island, I believe. The (indiscernible) Walrus
29 Commission, cooperatively with the Alaska Department of
30 Fish & Game and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Eskimo
31 Walrus Commission manages that hunt on Round Island.

32

33 Helen Chythlook, our special project
34 coordinator, works with QWC in conducting the annual hunt
35 on Round Island and I actively assist her in coordinating
36 the activities of that council. This year, adverse
37 weather and low numbers of walrus on Round Island were an
38 important factor in contributing to the unsuccessful
39 hunts of village hunters. Out of the eight qualifying
40 villages, there were only four villages that participated
41 in the walrus hunt, only one of which was successful.

42

43 Clark's Point went hunting as soon as the
44 season opened on September 20 and harvested one walrus.
45 Dillingham, Ekuk and Twin Hills went later in the season,
46 but went home empty-handed. Dillingham had mechanical
47 difficulties and had to return home without getting to
48 Kulukak. Ekuk made it as far as Kulukak, but had to hole
49 up for several days and ultimately had to return home
50 because of more forecasts of bad weather. I'd add that

00237

1 they lost their skiff at Cape Constantine shoals on the
2 way home. The past two hunting seasons were influenced
3 by extremely bad weather that included high winds,
4 freezing spray, snow storms and low temperatures. Poor
5 economics in the region have forced many to work into the
6 fall when the hunt season is in progress.

7
8 For information, the QWC receives funding
9 from the Eskimo Walrus Commission and they are also
10 funded by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to co-manage
11 the annual hunt on Round Island. Eight qualifying
12 villages are able to receive hunt permits that are issued
13 by the TWC along with the Department who issues access
14 permits, so we do have the co-management agreement there.

15
16 Obtaining the appropriate permits as well
17 as adhering to strict hunt guidelines spelled out in
18 their by-laws as attributed to the success of the annual
19 hunt. The TWC hosts pre and post hunt meetings as well
20 as paying for the harvest monitoring costs and ultimately
21 submits annual performance reports to the Eskimo Walrus
22 Commission.

23
24 I've been involved in conducting
25 migratory bird surveys in 13 communities in Bristol Bay
26 by contract with the Service. BBNA first did this in
27 '95, then in '97 and '99 and this is my first opportunity
28 to work with them this past fall for the 2001 season.
29 You know, a personal comment, interestingly, I thought
30 that most of the harvest of migratory birds occurred in
31 the fall but actually the majority of the harvest happens
32 during the spring subsistence hunt. You know, Ralph gave
33 a presentation with Bill about the upcoming migratory --
34 spring subsistence migratory bird regulations that will
35 be in place for the upcoming season. I'm working with
36 the Service again planning to do another survey in our
37 region starting this spring. It's looking like the plan
38 is to do annual harvest surveys so that the national HIP
39 program surveys could be more compatible for reporting
40 requirements.

41
42 Ted talked about the large land mammals
43 project that will be going on and I'll be working with
44 them to survey 17 western Bristol Bay villages. I'd like
45 to bring out and make a point that, you know, wolf
46 predation on moose and caribou continue to be a problem.
47 I continue to get increasing village resident reports of
48 moose kills and wolves within community townships within
49 Bristol Bay. This is a growing concern and the issue
50 needs to be addressed some time in the very near future.

00238

1 Subsistence spring migratory bird and
2 subsistence halibut regulations are coming this spring.
3 I've been working with the Alaska Native Subsistence
4 Halibut Working Group through RuralCap and, you know,
5 we've never had regulations concerning the spring
6 subsistence hunt as well as the halibut fishery but those
7 are coming. The economics of fishing has us all
8 disappointed, moaning and crying. You know, there's a
9 lot of things going on and a lot of issues blowing in the
10 wind and hopefully we can address them. I commend you as
11 a Council for doing a good a job addressing these
12 concerns and I'd like to compliment you and thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we really need to
15 put the dollars into systems such as Kvichak which is our
16 main target to get that back on line and get some help
17 with these stocks coming back. I didn't know, Hans, we
18 can deal in marine mammal issues as far as the Council
19 goes -- no, so the walrus thing is something we probably
20 can't deal with too much?

21

22 MR. EDENSHAW: The Council, in the past,
23 has sent letters to the Board of Game when they addressed
24 Round Island Hunt.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh, yeah.

27

28 MR. EDENSHAW: So in that aspect they
29 can.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But the waterfowl
32 migration, migratory thing we can deal with?

33

34 MR. EDENSHAW: No.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Not that either.

37

38 MR. HANS: I just spoke on those just for
39 informational, to bring you up to speed, up to date.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You ever looked at that
42 watershed over at Cape Ceneven below Port Heiden, between
43 Moeller and Port Heiden, have you thought about that or
44 looked at it at all?

45

46 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, the Fish and
47 Wildlife Service conducts annual haul-out and population
48 surveys down there every year. Our involvement in that
49 is that we provide -- our capacity building effort, you
50 know, we've been able to provide a student intern down

00239

1 there. We're able to fund that position working
2 cooperatively with the Fish and Wildlife Service. A
3 fellow by the name of Mark Weber with the Fish and
4 Wildlife Services has done quite a bit of work on
5 populations both at Round Island and over at Cape
6 Ceneven. In fact, we submitted a proposal to the Eskimo
7 Walrus Commission to do -- one of the scopes of work that
8 we submitted just a few weeks ago was for funding to
9 conduct aerial surveys eight times between April and
10 August of both Round Island and Cape Ceneven, so we're
11 trying to do what we could to help the Fish and Wildlife
12 Service and vice versa.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You could probably save
15 a lot of money if you'd just ask those PenAir pilots
16 between there.

17

18 MR. ANDERSEN: We probably would.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There's a little bonus
21 program for the pilots if they're nice and if they fly
22 over those walrus and the Feds call up and say, hey, Zero
23 Hotel was over the walrus, there goes the bonus. So
24 maybe you could pay them all money if they lose their
25 bonus and get a lot of good information.

26

27 MR. ANDERSEN: Well, one of the things,
28 one of the new technologies that I've seen that was
29 demonstrated to us at the Eskimo Walrus Commission
30 meeting in December was satellite -- the use of satellite
31 imagery, satellite photography for population
32 assessments. I mean it's really top of the line, state
33 of the art type of.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah. This beluga
36 thing that Lori Quakenbush is going through BBNA on,
37 which has already been funded and I saw the contract or
38 the paperwork, which we're trying to get more money on is
39 this chip that's going in this and work off the satellite
40 on beluga if they can tag them. It's going to be a very,
41 very interesting -- of great interest to this Council.

42

43 MR. ANDERSEN: And that was something
44 that I wanted to mention to the Council, you know, there
45 are a couple of pre-proposals that we worked with Fish
46 and Wildlife -- well, one that we worked with the Fish
47 and Wildlife Service in putting together, Jim Larson,
48 that was to continue the video escapement destination
49 over in Togiak River. That one is 00-010 on the list
50 that Steve Fried -- or Steve Klein had passed out.

00240

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. ANDERSEN: The other project is 03-
4 011, which is the Kvichak beluga proposal that we worked
5 together with Lori Quakenbush and Barbara Mahoney and the
6 Alaska Beluga Whale Committee and Slim Moristat in
7 putting that together.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah.

10

11 MR. ANDERSEN: You know, we organized a
12 planning committee for the project and the committee's
13 meeting on the 14th of March so that we can take the next
14 step.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Where is that committee
17 going to meet?

18

19 MR. ANDERSEN: Here in Dillingham.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

22

23 MR. ANDERSEN: Part of the problem is
24 that we're only able to do a pilot project for this year
25 because of the lack of funds.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hey, that's a step.

28

29 MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's a good step. We
32 want to get some additional time, observation and out
33 migration and when the adult salmon are coming back and
34 the belugas are targeting them over there in the
35 Telephone Point area. And we talked to the Park Service
36 and other people who are going to -- BBEDC, we need to
37 get some flying time. There's in-kind stuff that could
38 be taking place where the flight could maybe divert over
39 a little ways and help us out, all those things help.

40

41 MR. ANDERSEN: And the way we're going
42 about this is that for this year we're designing it as a
43 pilot project which I think will be really helpful.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else,
46 guys?

47

48 MR. ANDERSEN: I've got one other issue
49 that I would consider maybe a yellow flag concerning
50 caribou in 17 and 9, excluding 9(E) which is in Tier II

00241

1 status. The last couple of months we've been talking in
2 close communication with the villages in region. The
3 past year, especially, caribou have migrated out of the
4 area, you know, went westward, north and so on. This
5 year, specifically, they're having trouble finding
6 caribou to harvest. I know caribou can be fickle, you know,
7 we can't predict where they go. But, I think it's just
8 something that we need to keep, you know, our eyes on and
9 if that's the trend, you know, if there's no caribou
10 around then we maybe need to make some conservation
11 measures.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else guys?
14 Questions. Peter.

15

16 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes, a minor question on
17 the walrus, who's responsible for permitting transmitters
18 on the walrus?

19

20 MR. ANDERSEN: There aren't any
21 transmitters now.

22

23 MR. ABRAHAM: Who is.....

24

25 MR. ANDERSEN: The USGS is proposing to
26 do a test program and we're working with them and they're
27 working with the Walrus Commission, they're proposing to
28 do an experimental program with the walrus tags. So far
29 nothing has really happened with it because the request
30 of the QWC, the USGS first wants to test on a dead
31 animal. They want to fire the tag on the carcass.
32 Because of the poor season last year, because there was
33 only one walrus taken they weren't able to test it. The
34 USGS is also submitting a similar proposal to the -- or
35 the same proposal to the communities up on the Norton
36 Sound area and so far they haven't met much success in
37 getting approval to do it without going through a testing
38 phase first.

39

40 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, you know the reason
41 why we didn't have any walrus last fall is, you know, the
42 animals know the winter is coming much earlier than
43 before, they had a right calendar, we had a wrong one.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's right. They got
46 the weather forecast. Okay, thanks guys. If there's
47 nothing else, we thank you very much for your report.
48 Cliff, are we finished now with reports?

49

50 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, sir.

00242

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jim Marston did not
2 show up for King Salmon but everything was covered there.
3 Okay, we're going to be done here in about a few minutes,
4 guys. Other new business that's come before us, we
5 handled the Alvin Boskosky thing already. But under new
6 business, I'd like to ask Shirley and Robert, if you
7 would get together with Cliff and work up a proposal on
8 this rainbow trout concern that we have. Did you want to
9 do that for lunch today or if you get too far away, we
10 forget about it, you might give him some thoughts or
11 write something down. And would that be okay with the
12 rest of the committee if we had them go ahead and get
13 that rainbow trout program.....

14
15 MR. ABRAHAM: Pardon?

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, we talked about
18 the rainbow trout issue earlier before you got here and
19 what do we want to find, a TR on it?

20
21 MR. HEYANO: We need to establish a
22 season.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: A season. Are you
25 talking about a season and bag limits?

26
27 MR. HEYANO: Methods and means.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Methods and means,
30 okay. And they will work up a proposal with Cliff to
31 bring back to this Council probably in the October
32 meeting, right?

33
34 MR. EDENSHAW: Before then.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Before then?

37
38 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, because the proposal
39 deadline is March 29th, so we should be able to send a
40 draft of -- when I talk to Robert and the others and get
41 back to all of you to review.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So we're not going to
44 have a meeting before then?

45
46 MR. EDENSHAW: No, but I should be able
47 to do that by phone and talking with you and sending
48 faxes to each of you about the rainbow trout proposal.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Is that okay

00243

1 with the rest of the Council members then?

2

3 (Council nods affirmatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, good thank you.

6 Robert.

7

8 MR. HEYANO: Along those same lines, Mr.

9 Chairman, looking at customary and traditional use

10 determinations in Bristol Bay, herring spawn on kelp only

11 applies to the residents of the Togiak district.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. HEYANO: If there's no objections, if

16 we could draft a proposal that would include all Bristol

17 Bay residents.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

20

21 MR. HEYANO: There's some -- I guess,

22 it's not clear, Mr. Chairman, if halibut and herring for

23 the remainder of the Bristol Bay area has positive C&T

24 findings and maybe if we can ask Staff to research that

25 and if they don't, we can also develop a proposal for C&T

26 findings for halibut and herring for Bristol Bay

27 residents.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You got those orders

30 there, Cliff?

31

32 MR. EDENSHAW: Uh-huh.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else?

35

36 MR. HEYANO: That's all I have, Mr.

37 Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, you

40 have anything else? I'm going to go ahead and write a

41 letter to the legal department to find out if we can use

42 Federal funds other than in the districts that they're

43 allocated for such as maybe trying to help out with the

44 beluga situation in the Kvichak to Keith Goltz. Is it

45 okay if I write a letter and give it to you guys prior to

46 that, and it's going to be soon and Clifford, you'll go

47 ahead and get that drafted?

48

49 MR. EDENSHAW: Uh-huh.

50

00244

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And then I think Cliff
2 has done a good job for us, I'd like, as the Chairman of
3 the Council to write a letter of appreciation to the
4 Federal management people that he's done a good job for
5 us unless you guys think otherwise and we can evaluate
6 him later or whatever.

7

8 MR. ABRAHAM: That was the evaluation
9 right there.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Then I
12 think that we ought to show an appreciation for the work
13 that he's done. Everything I've called him to do he has
14 done so I think that would be good to do that.

15

16 (Council nods affirmatively)

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And again, Andy,
19 congratulations on your award, that was very good, we
20 appreciate that. And I think we're down at the end here.
21 The next meeting is going to be in October and it sounds
22 like it's going to be a Naknek meeting. As much as we
23 like Togiak, maybe we're going to go that direction.

24

25 MR. ABRAHAM: Don't matter to me.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We've got Steve over
28 there.

29

30 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Should we
33 schedule that meeting according to the books getting out
34 in time for the SRC meeting, for them to have a little
35 meeting or do you guys need to meet before we meet in
36 October or do you only meet in February?

37

38 SRC: No, we meet both in the spring and
39 in the fall and prior to the RAC meetings so that we can
40 prepare RAC recommendations.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we'd like to have
43 you meet prior to our meetings and if it's going to be
44 helpful to get the books to you like we did the last
45 time, it just happened to be -- that's why we're writing
46 the letter, that our coordinator got them to you.

47

48 Any other further business to come before
49 the Council today? Motion to adjourn.

50

00245

1 MR. HEYANO: So moved.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Wait a minute, could we
4 hold your motion?

5

6 MR. HEYANO: Sure.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, what did you want
9 to do?

10

11 MS. KELLEY: Are we going to set a new
12 date?

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't think we can
15 set a date until probably later on.

16

17 MR. HEYANO: Call of the Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

20

21 MS. KELLEY: Okay.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So moved to adjourn, is
24 there a second?

25

26 MS. KELLEY: Second.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're out of here.

29 Thank you.

30

31 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

32

33 * * * * *

00246

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in
8 and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer
9 Matrix, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 153
12 through 245 contain a full, true and correct Transcript
13 of the VOLUME II, BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
14 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically
15 by Nathaniel Hile on the 1st day of March 2002, beginning
16 at the hour of 8:00 o'clock a.m. at the Assembly
17 Chambers, Dillingham, Alaska;

18

19 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
20 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
21 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to
22 the best of our knowledge and ability;

23

24 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
25 party interested in any way in this action.

26

27 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th day
28 of March 2002.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04 ☐